TETRAGRAMMATON LABYRINTH

STORY AND ART
Ei Itou

4

AT DEATH'S DOOR.

Stuck aboard a runaway train with three of Hell's highest-ranking demons, Angela comes face to face with the very master who created her—Lord Gilles de Rais. And now, Sister Meg, Detective Wise, and Priestess Hisame can only stand by and watch helplessly as Angela and Lord Gilles square off in a battle that neither of them may survive.

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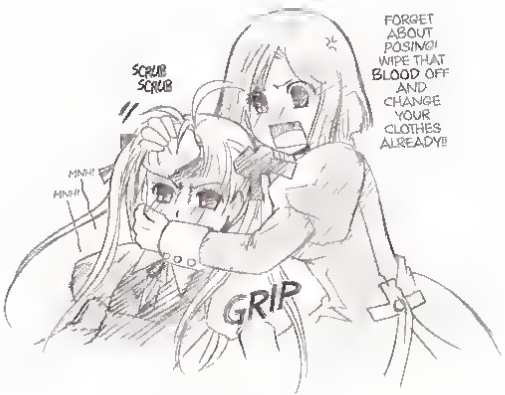
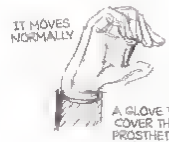
STRAWBERRY
MANGA

断罪者 4

EI ITOU


FORGET ABOUT POSING?! WIPE THAT BLOOD OFF AND CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES ALREADY!!
SCRUB SCRUB
MNH!
MNH!
GRIP



GERTRUDE

FULL NAME GERTRUDE KURTZ
AGE 14
PLACE OF ORIGIN GERMANY

The daughter of a sorcerer (Magus) and the younger of the so-called "Daughters of the Alchemist." Both sets of arms and legs have prosthetics attached. Because of her fear of strangers, she is always hiding behind her big sister. She seems quiet and gentle until you get her into a fight. She hasn't had a big part in the story so far, but let's hope she'll soon have as important of a role as her sister Trude.

断罪者

テトラグラマトン ラビリンス

TETRAGRAMMATON LABYRINTH

4

TRANSLATION NOTES

ANATHEMA (PAGE 10)

Defined as something or someone that is cursed by God. In *Tetragrammaton Labyrinth*, Angela's scythe is the physical form of that curse.

MAGATAMA (PAGE 36)

Curved beads—mainly made of jade, agate, quartz, talc, or jasper—which first appeared during the Jomon period.

EVOCATION (PAGE 52)

The act of calling or summoning a spirit, demon, or god. Translated from shoukan, which means "Summons."

MAGUS (PAGE 77)
Singular form of Magi – may refer to a shaman, sorcerer, or wizard

141.5
Mauser is the name of a German arms manufacturer Trude s gun appears to be a Mauser C96, a semi-automatic pistol

190
The Taishō period in Japan lasted from 1912 to 1926 In the author's notes Itou draws Hisame wearing an outfit from that period even though the manga takes place in an earlier time

GERMAN GUIDE

BITTE - PLEASE
FREILASSUNG - RELEASE
MADCHEN - YOUNG GIRL
MEINE SCHWESTER - MY SISTER
SCHWESTER - SISTER
SIEBEN - SEVEN
ELF - ELEVEN
SECHZEHN - SIXTEEN
EINUNDZWANZIG - TWENTY-ONE

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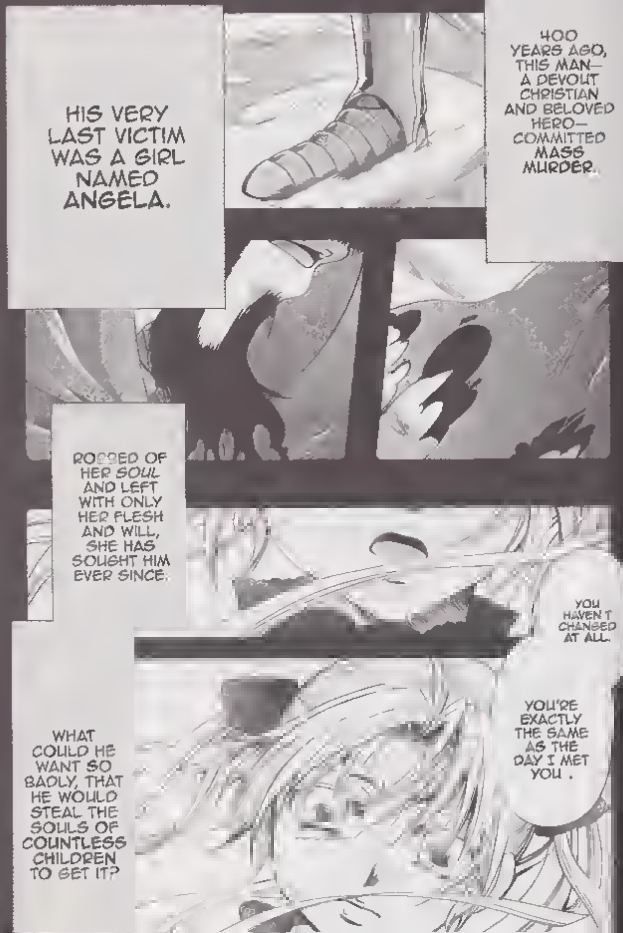
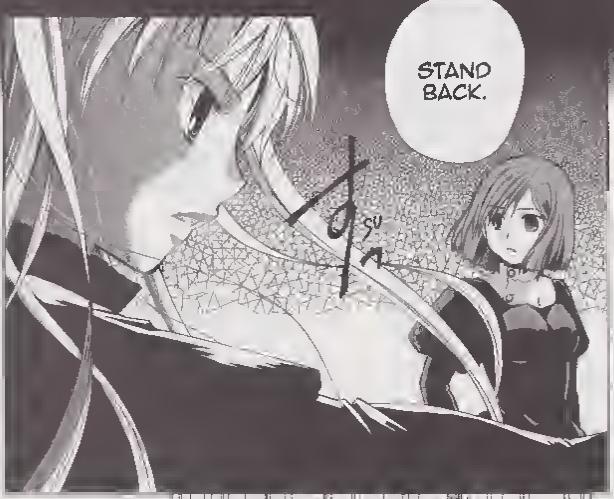
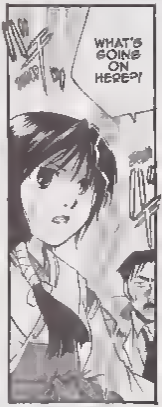
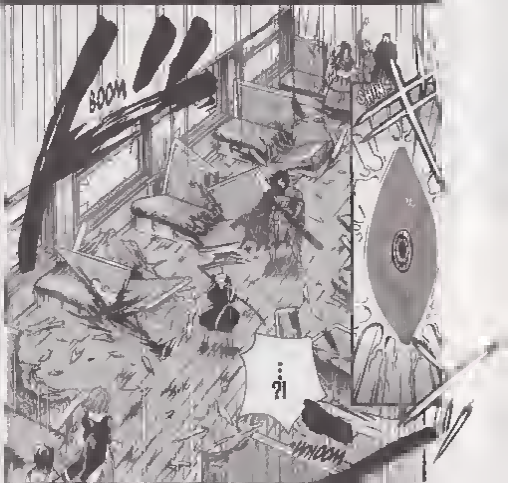
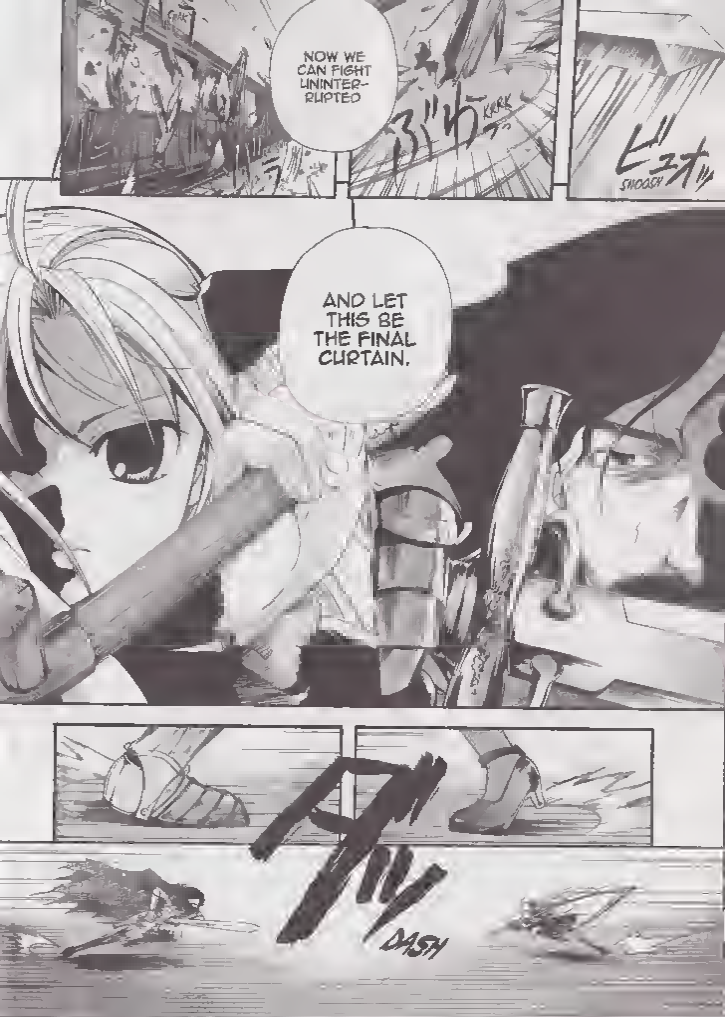

HIS VERY LAST VICTIM WAS A GIRL NAMED ANGELA.
400 YEARS AGO, THIS MAN— A DEVOUT CHRISTIAN AND BELOVED HERO— COMMITTED MASS MURDER.
ROBBED OF HER SOUL AND LEFT WITH ONLY HER FLESH AND WILL, SHE HAS SOUGHT HIM EVER SINCE.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
YOU'RE EXACTLY THE SAME AS THE DAY I MET YOU.
WHAT COULD HE WANT SO BADLY, THAT HE WOULD STEAL THE SOULS OF COUNTLESS CHILDREN TO GET IT?

LORD GILLES DE RAIS!


STAND BACK.

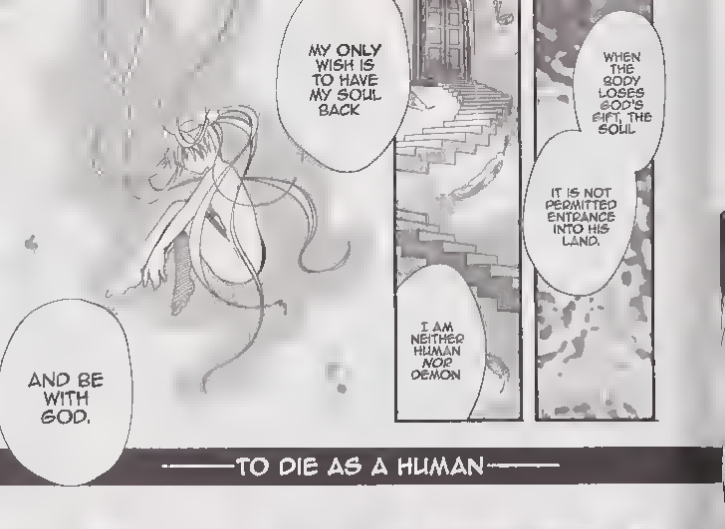

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!


BOOM
SHINK
?!
WHOOSH

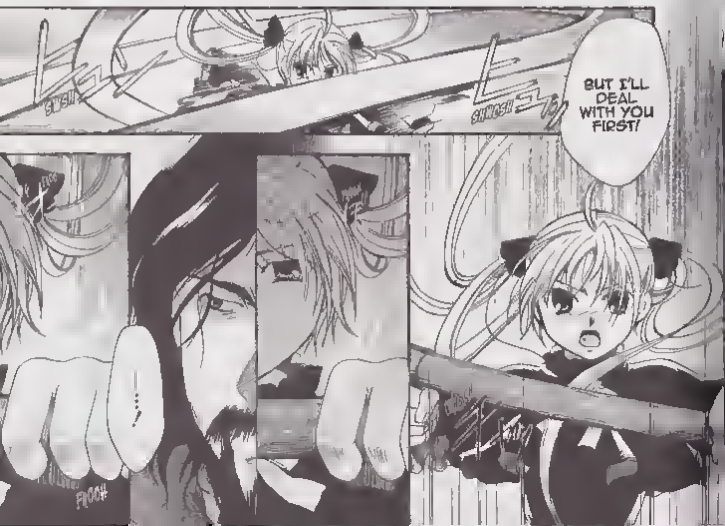

NOW WE CAN FIGHT UNINTER-RUPTED
ぶわっ WARK
ビュオッ SWOOSH
AND LET THIS BE THE FINAL CURTAIN.
ダッ DASH

BAKIIIN
GIRI GIRI GIRI
GIRI GIRI
AND NOW YOU DARE...
TURN YOUR BLADE ON ME?!
UGH!
BASH
THAT DAY ALL YOU COULD DO WAS CRY.
MAGNIFI-CENT!!
SHSH

IF I HADN'T MET YOU...
I WOULD HAVE STAYED HUMAN!!
WHEN YOU TOOK MY SOUL FROM ME
YOU ALSO TOOK AWAY GOD'S BLESS-ING!
I BECAME SOME-THING THAT COULDN'T EVEN DIE!


MY ONLY WISH IS TO HAVE MY SOUL BACK
WHEN THE BODY LOSES GOD'S GIFT, THE SOUL
IT IS NOT PERMITTED ENTRANCE INTO HIS LAND.
I AM NEITHER HUMAN NOR DEMON
AND BE WITH GOD.

TO DIE AS A HUMAN

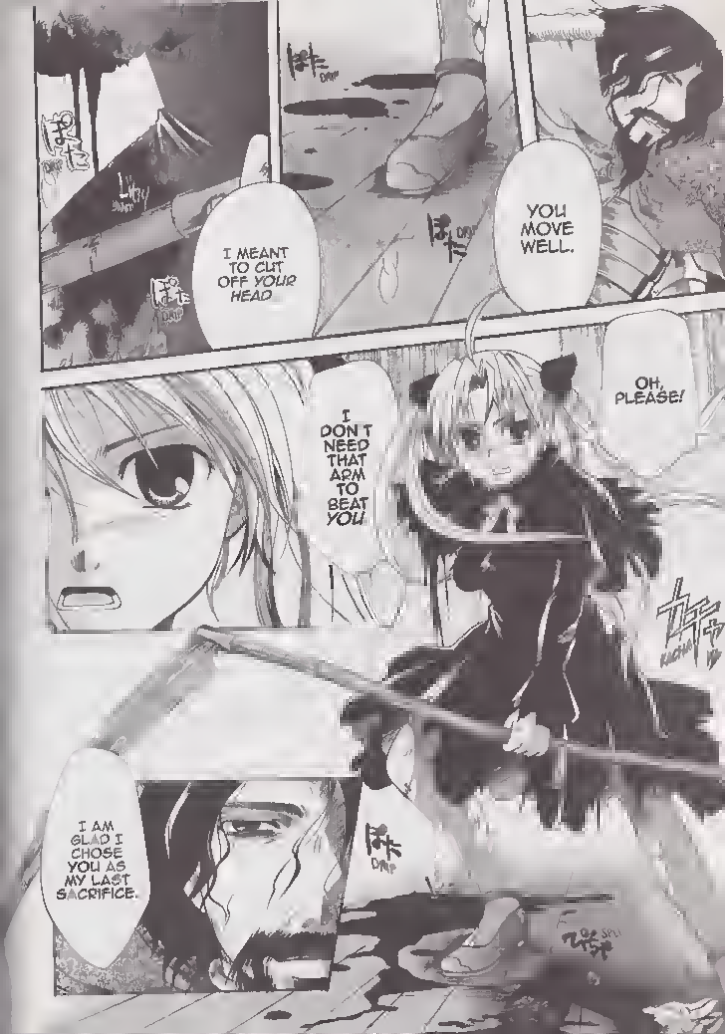


HOLY FIRE?!
IT'S TOO MUCH FOR HER...
IT'S WORSE THAN BEFORE!!
FASH!
FASH!
FASH!
!!
A FULL-FLEDGED ANATHEMA?!
ANGELA!!

HOLY FLAMES THAT CONSUME EVEN YOUR OWN FLESH.
TRULY YOU ARE MAGNIFICENT
I'M END-ING THIS!!
FROHHHHHHHH
CLANG

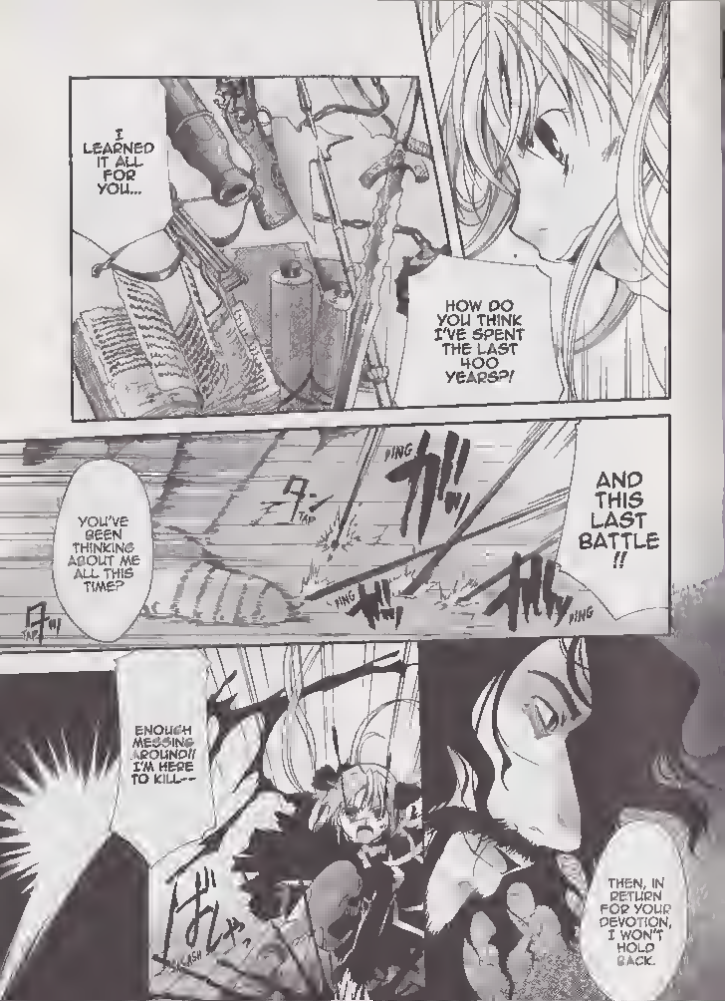
?!
ANGELA!!
?!
HE BLOCKED A HOLY CURSE?!
FROOOW
I AM FLATTERED THAT YOU HAVE READIED SUCH A MOVE FOR ME...
BUT...

SADLY...
!!
THAT SCYTHE IS NOT COMPLETE YET.
ANN!!
GLAH!


YOU MOVE WELL.
I MEANT TO CUT OFF YOUR HEAD.
OH, PLEASE!
I DON'T NEED THAT ARM TO BEAT YOU!
I AM GLAD I CHOSE YOU AS MY LAST SACRIFICE.

DASH!!
LOSING A LIMB IS NOTHING...
COMPARED TO LOSING A SOUL!!
STILL YOU RELY ON THE INCOMPLETE SCYTHE?
ZWOSH
FLING
FWU
FWU
CLENCH

KLANG
HYU
HOW POINT-LESS!!
?!
SLITHER
SLASH
AVOSH
SO YOU'VE LEARNED TO USE YOUR BLOOD AS A WEAPON...
AND THE SCYTHE WAS JUST A DIVER-SION.


I LEARNED IT ALL FOR YOU...
HOW DO YOU THINK I'VE SPENT THE LAST 400 YEARS?!
AND THIS LAST BATTLE !!
PING
YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ME ALL THIS TIME?
TAP
ENOUGH MESSING AROUND!! I'M HERE TO KILL--
SLASH
THEN, IN RETURN FOR YOUR DEVOTION, I WON'T HOLD BACK.

SLASH
SLASH
WHAT ...?
WHAT... WAS... THAT?
LIKE?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHEN HE CUT ME!
COME.
BE AT PEACE NOW
I DON'T KNOW! I DIDN'T SEE!!
WHAT? WHAT HAPPENED TO ANN?!
WHERE IS SHE?!
THIS BARRIER IS WEAK ENOUGH FOR ME TO BREAK THROUGH
BUT THIS FIGHT IS BEYOND MORTAL LIMITS!
H-HEY!! SHOULDN'T WE BACK HER UP?!
IF WE TRIED TO HELP, WE WOULD ONLY GET IN HER WAY.
#1/HIT 4

UH
NOW THEN, ANGELA.
FLOOR
LET ME GO!
I WILL NOT KEEP YOU WAITING ANY LONGER
NOOO!
ANGELA!!
GURK
WOOSH
BAM

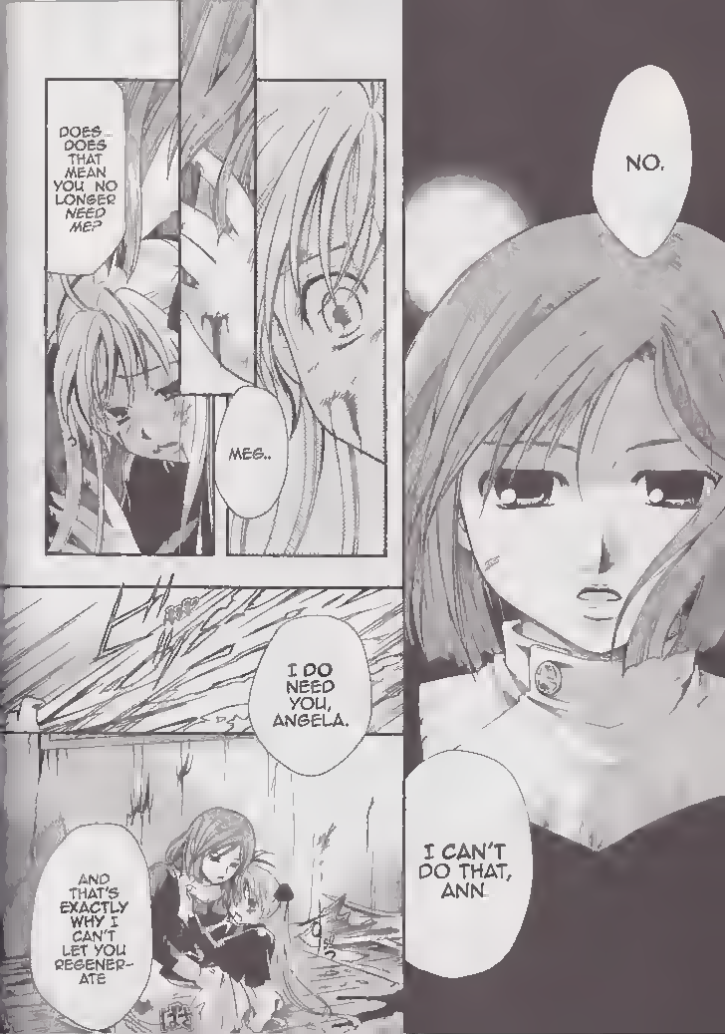
AH
AH!
SQUEEZE
TWITCH
KRRK
SNAP
AHH!
CRAK
SNAP
SNAP
KRRCH
AH!
UAAHHH!
SPLAT
SPLAT
SQRSH!
GIIAT
OFFER ME NOT ONLY YOUR SOUL, BUT YOUR FLESH AS WELL
CRAK

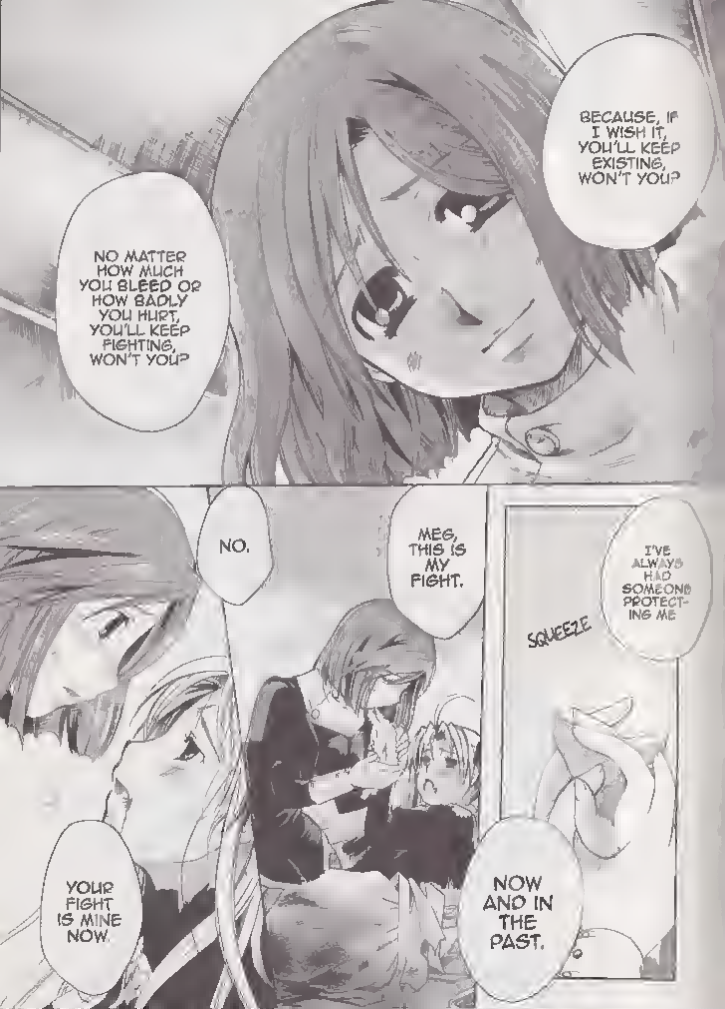
SNAP
AGH!
SNAP
UR GH
AAAGH!
AGH AH
SNAP
SNAP
GUH!!
ANGELA!!
ANGELA!!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I JUST SAID?!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!!
ANNN!!!
AT THE VERY LEAST

NOT BAD FOR A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING
SO THAT'S IT...
KACHA
SU
ZAN
BUT NOW...
LET US END THIS!
YOU ARE NOTHING IF NOT ENTER-TAINING
SWOOSH
BAM

GIRI
GIRI
GIRI
GIRI
MEG ?!
SHAKE
GUUH!
URGH...
SWAT
GIRI
KRGH...
GI
GI

A MERE HUMAN BEING ABLE TO STOP MY BLADE IMPRESSIVE
(AH)
GIRL
CLANG
GET AWAY FROM HER !!
BASSH
OH, ANGELA !!
ME?.. CALL MY NAME..
YOU HAVE TO NEED ME..
THEN I CAN KEEP EXISTING.
THEN I CAN STILL FIGHT..
ANN


DOES... DOES THAT MEAN YOU NO LONGER NEED ME?
MES..
NO.
I DO NEED YOU, ANGELA.
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I CAN'T LET YOU REGENER-ATE
I CAN'T DO THAT, ANN.


BECAUSE, IF I WISH IT, YOU'LL KEEP EXISTING, WON'T YOU?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU BLEED OR HOW BADLY YOU HURT, YOU'LL KEEP FIGHTING, WON'T YOU?
NO.
MEG, THIS IS MY FIGHT.
I'VE ALWAYS HAD SOMEONE PROTECTING ME
SQUEEZE
YOUR FIGHT IS MINE NOW.
NOW AND IN THE PAST.

IF YOU DESIRE DEATH...
AND WELCOME YOUR OWN DESTRUC-TION—
THEN I WANT TO PERISH WITH YOU
IF I'M WITH YOU...
I'D GLADLY FALL TO PURGA-TORY.

HISAME, DETECTIVE
PLEASE DO NOT COME OUT FROM BEHIND THE BARRIER.
MEG?!
MEG...?
YOU'LL PROBABLY BE FINE
AS LONG AS YOU STAY THERE.
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MY, MY, AND TO THINK SHE WAS SHAKING LIKE A LEAF JUST A MINUTE AGO
WHO'S THE GIRL?

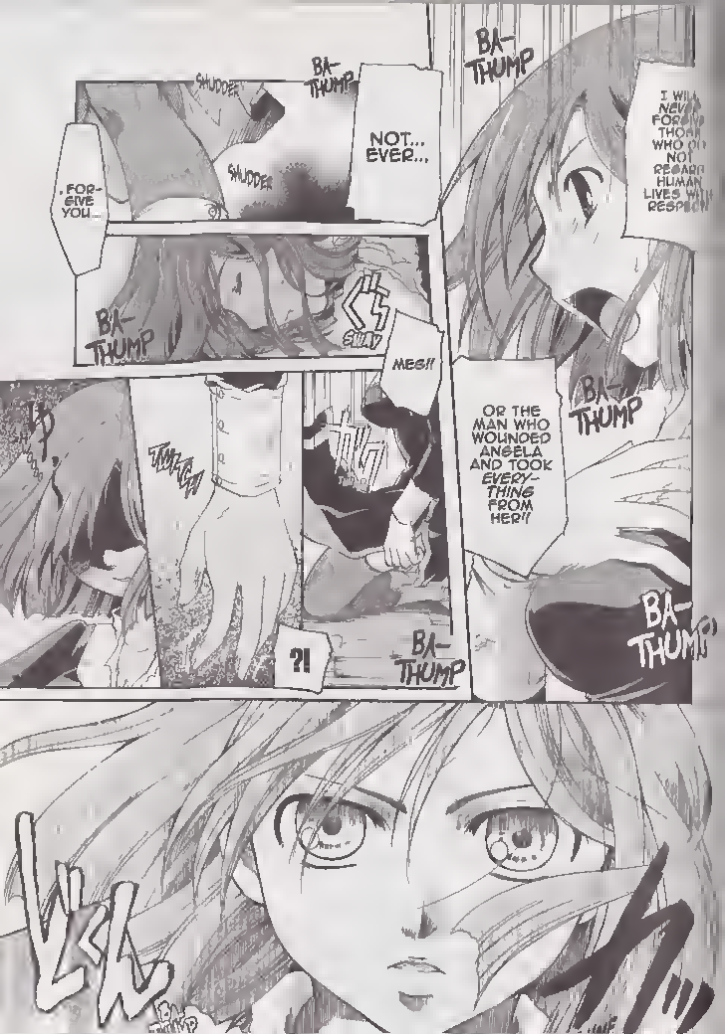
SISTER?
US? WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M SORRY. I JUST DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU AS WELL
IF IT COMES TO IT, PLEASE PROTECT YOURSELVES AND ANGELA.
MEG, YOU CAN'T BE...?!
GASP
SHWIP
NO, WAIT!!
AAH!
MEG!!

WACO
THIS IS QUITE THE DILEMMA
AS A DEVOUT CHRISTIAN, I CANNOT USE MY SWORD ON A NUN
PLEASE STEP ASIDE
I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND MY STRENGTH
IN MY GOD...AND THE LOVE OF MY FATHER...
BUT...

GRRRR
TO FIGHT YOU, TO PROTECT ANGELA..
SNAP
FWOOSH
I CAN ONLY RELY ON THIS CURSED BODY!!

Crime: 20 Despair

MES, NO !! STOP!
HOW CAN A SO-CALLED CHRISTIAN THINK SO LITTLE OF HUMAN LIFE
GLARE
WHAT HAD THE PASSENGERS OF THIS TRAIN DONE TO DESERVE DEATH?
NOTH-ING!


SHUDDER
BA-THUMP
NOT... EVER...
SHUDDER
...FOR-GIVE YOU...
BA-THUMP
SWAY
MEG!!
BA-THUMP
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE THOSE WHO DO NOT REGARD HUMAN LIVES WITH RESPECT!!
BA-THUMP
OR THE MAN WHO WOUNDED ANGELA AND TOOK EVERY-THING FROM HER!!
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
?!
BA-THUMP

HUH? MY ETHER IS BEING SUCKED OUT...
?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?! THE MAGATAMA IS REACTING LIKE MAD!!
?!
FLASH
ONCE REMOVED, HER HEART IS FREE TO ABSORB THE ETHER OF EVERYONE AND ANYONE AROUND TO SUSTAIN ITS POWER
IT KEPT THE POWER OF COUNTLESS PRAYERS AND CURSES SEALED INSIDE HER HEART
THAT CROSS WAS MEG'S SAFETY VALVE...
IT'S LIKE ALL ITS SPIRITUAL POWER IS BEING DRAWN OUT
WOOSH

KRSH!
SQU
IS THAT... IS THAT REALLY MEG?!
GOD, WHAT POWER
MUST BE WIPED CLEAN

MEG IS NOW JUST A ROBOT REACTING TO THE ENEMY IN FRONT OF HER
IT'S NO USE.
WHAT IS SHE THINKING?!
SHE JUST ATTACKS WITH NO PLAN.
THE WORLD MUST BE WIPED CLEAN
TAP TAP
SHE WON'T STOP UNTIL THE ENEMY IS DESTROYED OR HER OWN BODY IS BROKEN...
SISTER HOW YOU MOVE AND ABSORB ETHER
IT IS AS IF YOU WERE ONE OF US DEMONS!
CLEAN
ENEMIES MUST BE ERASED.
HER BODY IS AUTOMATICALLY REGENERATING THANKS TO THE ABSORBED ETHER. BUT AGAINST THAT MAN
A BODY OF HUMAN FLESH WILL NOT LAST LONG
THEY MUST BE ERASED

SILENCE
ANGELA'S ENEMIES
ARE FOR ME TO ERASE
FOR ME
AS YOU WISH SISTER
MEG !!
FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO
THOUGH, I ASK YOU TO BEAR ME NO GRUDGE

SLING
?!
HOW CAN THIS BE?! SHE DID NOT WISH FOR YOUR REGENERATION!
TOSS
MEG...
SU
DEEP DOWN SHE REMEMBERED HER LOVE FOR ME EVEN IN THIS STATE

MEG'S LOVE FOR ME IS INNATE.
BECAUSE THAT LOVE IS SO DEEP...
I COULD REBUILD MY BODY THROUGH MY OWN WILL.
I SEE BUT SUCH A MEANS OF REGENERATING DOES HAVE ITS DRAWBACKS
TRUE...
WITH YOUR BODY BARELY RE-ASSEMBLED, YOU WILL ONLY HAVE AS MUCH STRENGTH AS A MERE HUMAN.
INCOMPLETE ONCE AGAIN.
AND EVEN IF I WERE "COMPLETE"

FLIT
.....
I COULDN'T BEAT YOU
GRIP
THIS WRETCHED FEELING?
GRIP
WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS?
THAT FEELING IS CALLED
DESPAIR.
DES... PAIR...?

EVEN IF I WERE COMPLETE, ALL THE TECHNIQUES I'VE LEARNED OVER THE LAST 400 YEARS WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TO DEFEAT YOU.
SO THAT'S WHY...
I SEE.
I NOW FEEL THIS CRUSHING SADNESS...
EVEN IF THAT IS DESPAIR.
BUT NOW I KNOW I DO HAVE SOME-THING LEFT
CLENCH
I STILL HAVE A LITTLE FEELING LEFT IN ME...
BUT I'D THOUGHT THAT YOU HAD TAKEN EVERYTHING FROM ME

HEE
HEE
AND THAT MAKES ME SO HAPPY, I CAN HARDLY HELP MYSELF.
HEH HEH
HA
HEH HEH
AH HA HA HA HA HA!
HOW... HOW MAGNIFI-CENT!
WHAT A CREATURE YOU ARE!
YOU HAVE SUR-PASSED ALL EXPECTA-TIONS.
YOU'RE TOO KIND.

SLAP
BUT..
EVEN IF I AM NOW CRUSHED BY THIS DESPAIR
EVEN IF MY HEART IS TAKEN PRISONER BY SHADOWS, I WILL BREAK FREE
NOT ONLY HAVE YOU TRAPPED ME IN THIS WRETCHED BODY
BUT YOU DARED TO HURT HER
NOW I REALLY CAN'T FORGIVE YOU

FWIP
?!
FWIP
HMM ?!
PING
PING
PING
SHWP
AH!
GLANCE
PLENTY OF TIME.
A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO STOP ME. THEY WON'T LAST BUT A MINUTE.
AH, FOOT TRAPS.
SHWP
SHWP

HISAME.
THE DOOR!!
SLASH
GUSH
WHOA!
THUD
W-WHAT IS GOING ON?
BLOW IT UP!!
SHWP
WHAT? RUNNING AWAY?
SHWP

BOOM
WE HAVE TO BLOW APART THE TRAIN CAR CONNEC-TORS!!
GOT IT!
STAY BACK!
THIS IS ALL THE GUNPOW-DER WE GOT!!
ANOTHER FUN IDEA
DID IT WORK?!
DAMN IT!
HOW IS IT STILL IN ONE PIECE?!

KACLUNK
IF I COULD JUST GET IT OFF..
CLUNK
KACLUNK
MORE DEMONS?!
GOD, THEY'RE FRIKKIN' EVERY-WHERE!
AGH !!
!!
SLITHER
IT'S DE-MONS!
THEY'RE KEEPING THE CON-NECTORS TOGETH-ER!!
GRGH ...
UGH..
CLENK
LET GO OR IT'LL PULL YOU IN!
SNAP
SNAP
?!
NO !!

HEY!!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN LITTLE GIRLS GET IN OVER THEIR HEADS!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M BRINGING HER UP!
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
CLUNK
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
THERE WE GO!!
THEY'VE FINALLY COME APART!

WE'RE HOME FREE!
AND THEY STILL CAN'T MOVE.
OH, YOU FOOL!
HYUOO
GYUOO
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
AS IF WE'D LET YOU GO.
CRACK
BOOM
!!

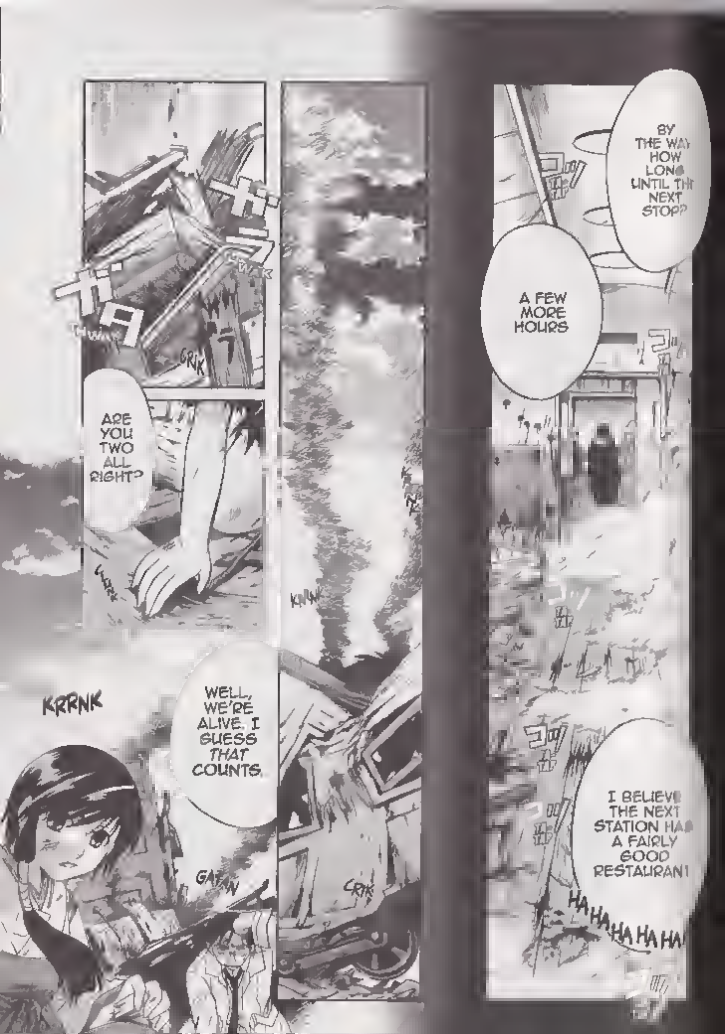
AHAHAHAHAHA!
THE TRACKS
GET BACK !!
BA
GA-CHUNK
SHIT !!
EVOCA-TION!
BARN
GRRRRRRR

GRAB HOLD OF SOME-THING...! ANY-THING!
WHOOO
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
WHOOO
DAMNIT!
THERE ISN'T ENOUGH TIME!
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
BRRK
BRRK
BOTH OF YOU, GET BACK HERE!!

THRRRSHH

KIM

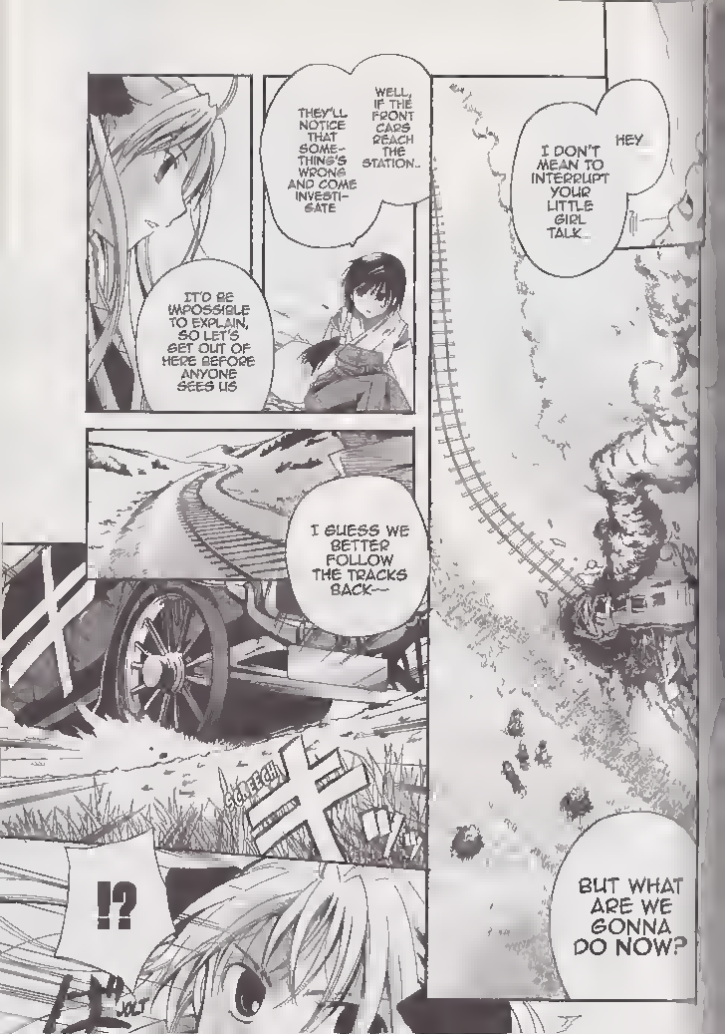
I CHANGED MY MIND
KACLUNK
SNAP
SNAP
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ENDING THINGS...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT LETTING THEM LIVE?
KACLUNK
EVEN IF SHE SURVIVES TODAY...
KACLUNK
KACLUNK
IT IS OUR DESTINY TO MEET AGAIN.
THEY CALL "DESPAIR."
IN THAT HUMAN EMO-TION...
TA
TA-TAP
UNTIL THEN LET HER WALLOW ALL SHE WANTS


BY THE WAY, HOW LONG UNTIL THE NEXT STOP?
A FEW MORE HOURS
I BELIEVE THE NEXT STATION HAS A FAIRLY GOOD RESTAURANT
HA HA HA HA HA
ARE YOU TWO ALL RIGHT?
WELL, WE'RE ALIVE. I GUESS THAT COUNTS.
KRRNK
GATAN
CRIK
KNNK

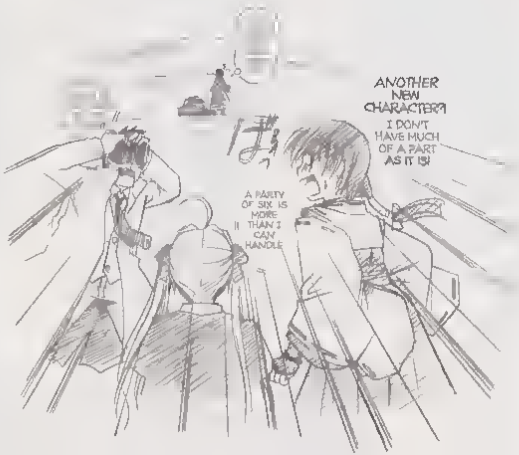
SO I BORROWED A LITTLE POWER
OH, I CAN'T ON MY OWN.
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T USE MAGIC?
ALL THANKS TO THAT GABBER THE LITTLE GIRL PUT UP I RECKON
I'M GLAD YOU TWO DON'T GIVE UP SO EASILY WE'D BE DEAD OTHERWISE.
THAT'S TRUE.
AS LONG AS YOU SURVIVE, THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT TIME
WELL, IF YOU GIVE UP, THAT'S THE END!
I'D NEVER GIVE UP WHEN I STILL HAVE DUTIES TO FULFILL!

AND I EVEN PUT MEG IN DANGER...
NEXT TIME
GRIP
I COULDN'T DO ANY-THING.
DID I JUST WASTE 400 YEARS?
NEXT TIME. HUH? EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
!

BUT, WELL...
ANGELA, WHEN THAT "NEXT TIME" COMES, HOW DO WE KNOW IT WON'T PLAY OUT JUST LIKE IT DID TODAY?
!
WE DON'T
HOW STUPID ARE YOU?!
DIDN'T THAT JERK SAY, "THAT SCYTHE IS NOT COMPLETE YET"?
THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS COMPLETE IT!
I MYSELF HAVE YET TO FULLY MASTER ALL THE SKILLS I NEED
ONCE WE ACQUIRE THE LAST SACRED TREASURE, IT WILL BE A DIFFERENT STORY
FORGET IT!
WE'D NEVER GET ANYWHERE IF YOU SULKED ALL THE TIME
SIGH
TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD BE THE ONE TO CHEER ME UP.
...
THANK YOU


HEY
I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT YOUR LITTLE GIRL TALK...
BUT WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW?
WELL, IF THE FRONT CARS REACH THE STATION...
THEY'LL NOTICE THAT SOMETHING'S WRONG AND COME INVESTIGATE
IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN, SO LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE ANYONE SEES US
I GUESS WE BETTER FOLLOW THE TRACKS BACK—
SCREECH
!?
JOLT

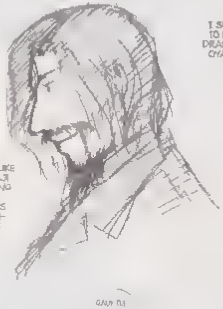
SU
TAP

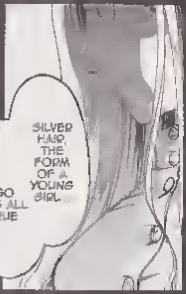

ANOTHER NEW CHARACTER?
I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A PART AS IT IS!
A PARTY OF SIX IS MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE

GILLES DE RAIS

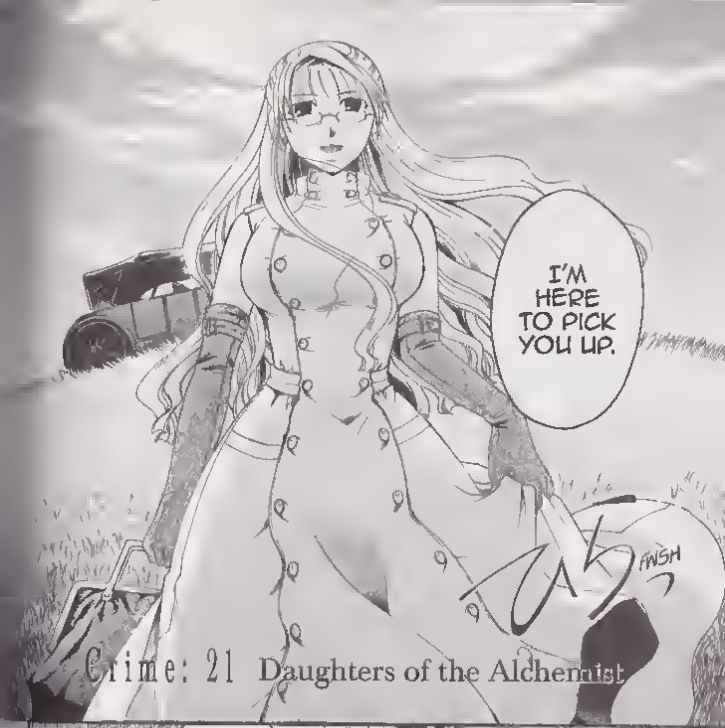
FULL NAME LORD GILLES DE RAIS
AGE ?(CANNOT BE DETERMINED)
PLACE OF ORIGIN FRANCE
HEIGHT 181CM

The model for the title character of "Bluebeard," a fairy tale written by Charles Perrault. While he was proclaimed a national hero for his service in the Hundred Years War, he was also a serial killer who delved deep into black magic. He was the one who stole Angela's soul but his reasons for committing mass murder are yet unknown.

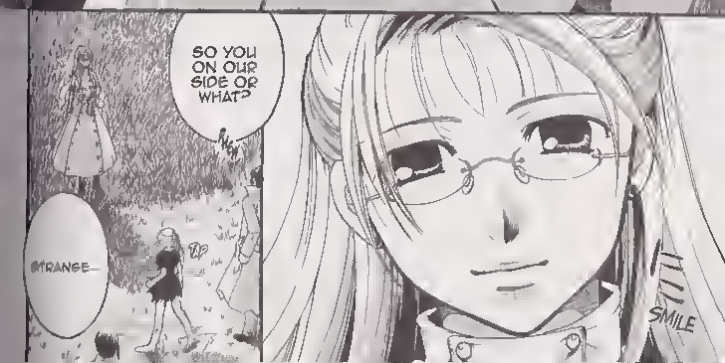



SO IT'S ALL TRUE
SILVER HAIR, THE FORM OF A YOUNG GIRL...

ARE YOU ANGELA?
!...



Crime: 21 Daughters of the Alchemist



ONLY A SELECT FEW OF THE ORGANIZATION KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING
EVEN WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT WE WOULD BE STOPPED HERE...
GASP
YEAH!! HOW THE HELL DID YOU KNOW ...?!
GIGGLE
...
FOOO
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR
SWISH
MY NAME IS TRUDE.

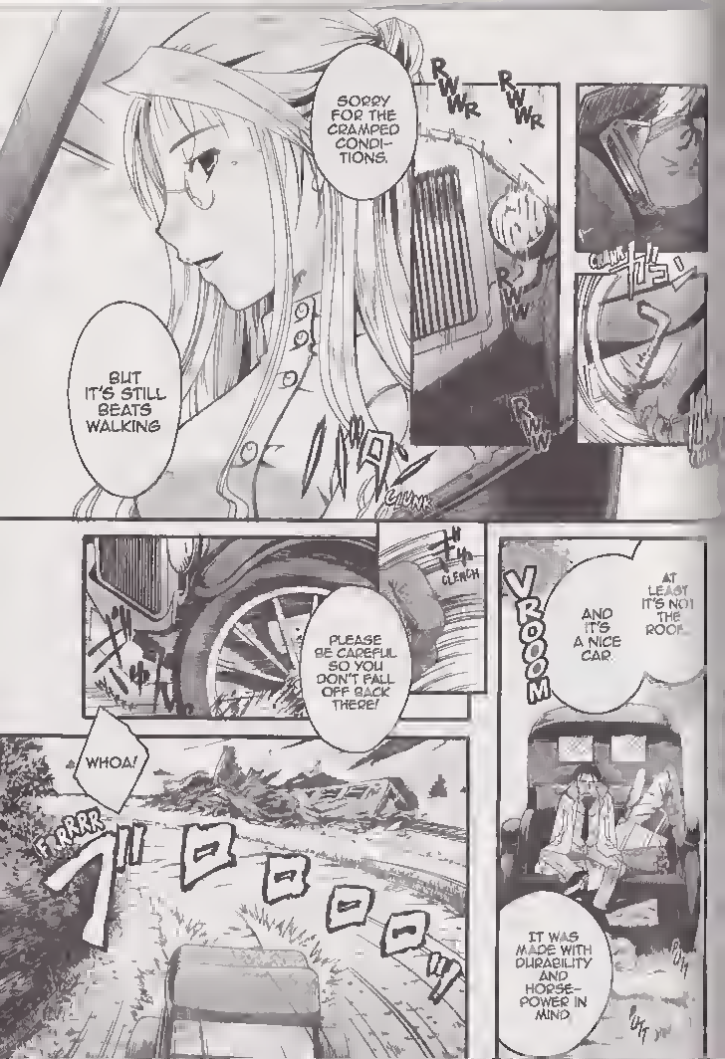
I AM A DAUGHTER OF THE ALCHEMIST.
HIS DAUGH-TER...?
FOO
YES
I SEE. WELL, THAT ADDS UP.
?
HUH?
SHE IS ON OUR SIDE, RIGHT?
KNEEL
EXCUSE ME...
PLUS COUNTLESS BRUISES AND ABRASIONS.
MINERAL DEFICIENCY.
MIS-ALIGNED CERVICAL VERTE-BRAE...
ALSO SOME LIGHT SPRAINS AND NUMEROUS BROKEN BONES

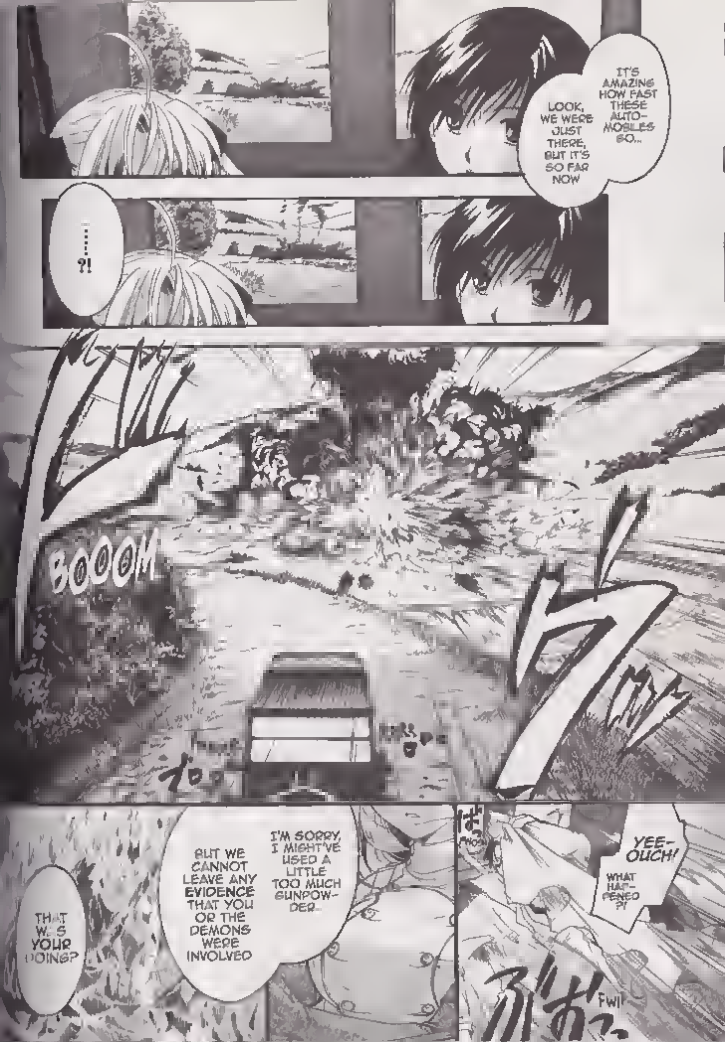
I SEE THEY HAVE ALL HEALED THEM-SELVES
YOUR ARM AND OTHER WOUNDS.
SHAA
MEG
PHEW
MS ANGELA
HOWEVER ALL OF THE INJURIES ARE HEALING THEMSELVES AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED
HOW MARVEL-OUS
WIPE
REALLY, THE SPEED AT WHICH YOU REGEN-ERATE IS INCREDIBLE!
AS FOR YOU TWO I'M GLAD YOU HAVE NO LIFE-THREATENING INJURIES
TAP
IS THAT GIRL A DOCTOR?
WHO KNOWS? THAT OR SOME-THING MORE

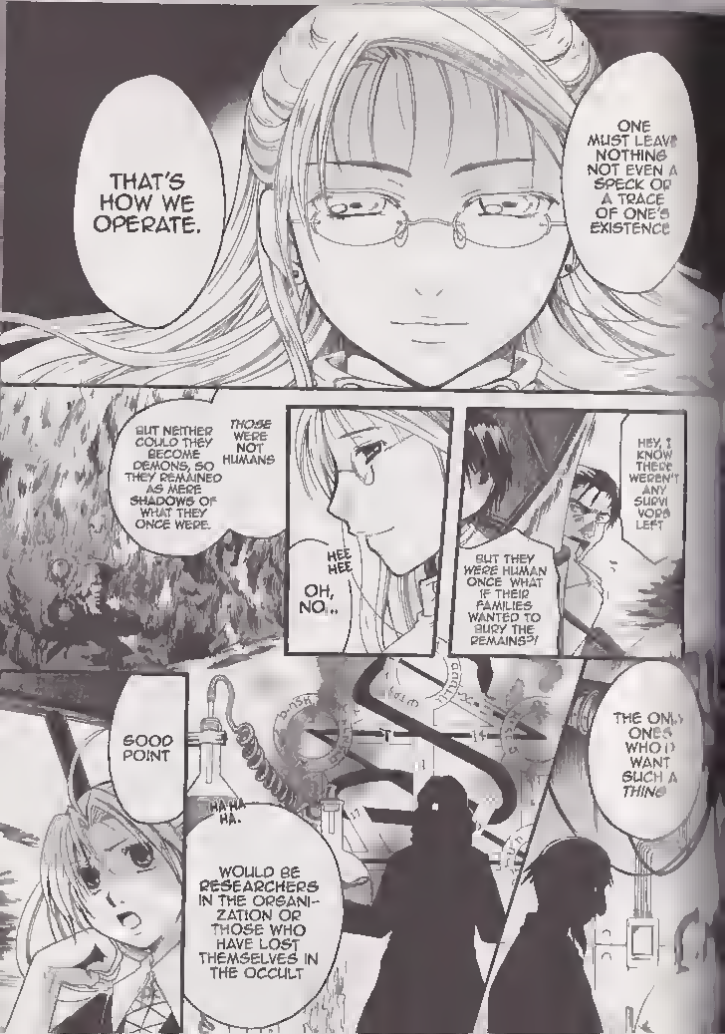
JUDGING FROM THE WRECKAGE, THAT'S NOTHING LESS THAN A MIRACLE
KNAK
GUESS WE'RE MIGHTY LUCKY TO BE ALIVE
THAT'S TRUE...
ALTHOUGH YOUR INJURIES AREN'T MAJOR, STANDING AROUND HERE ISN'T HELPING THEM HEAL
MY CAR'S WAITING
GACHA

SLAM!
LIKE I'D LET A LITTLE GIRL SIT ON THE ROOF!
CAN WE TRUST HER?
I MEAN, DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHO SHE IS?
WHISPER
YOU WANT TO SWITCH?
I'D BE FINE ON THE ROOF.
UH...
IT'S GOING TO BE A TIGHT SQUEEZE
IT'S FINE...
SHE IS A DAUGHTER OF THE ALCHEMIST
I KNOW HER FATHER.
BUT WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN? "DAUGHTER OF THE ALCHEMIST"?
OH.

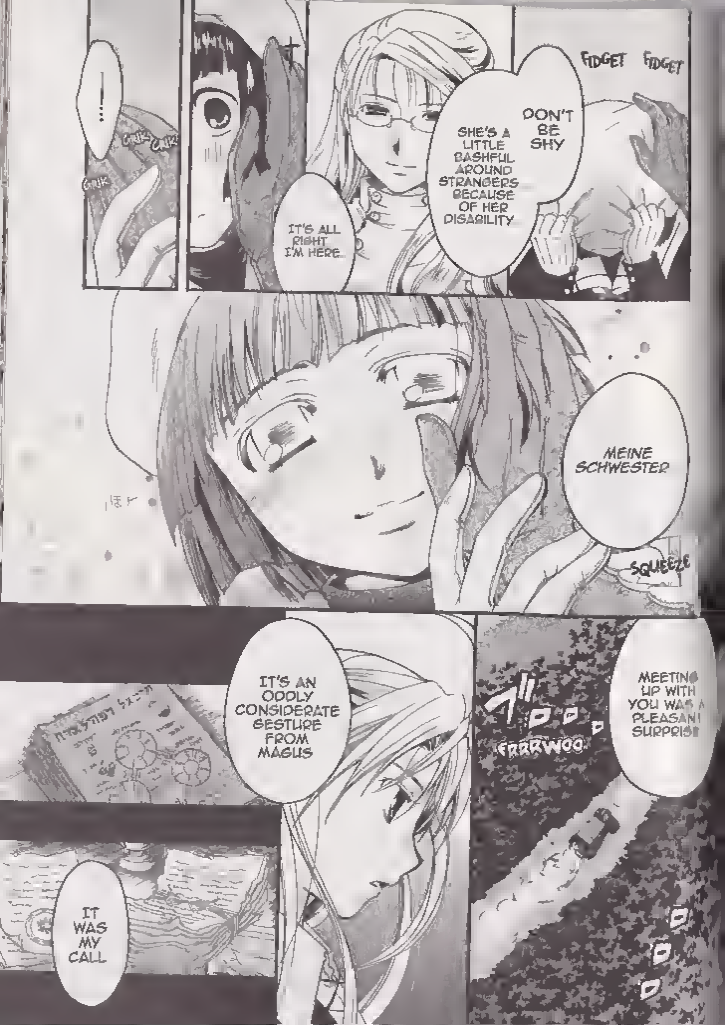
WHAT'S WITH HER...?
TWITCH
TWITCH
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
TWITCH
FLINCH
DON'T BE AFRAID.
SMILE
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ARE YOU ALSO A DAUGHTER OF THE ALCHEMIST?
TWITCH
TWITCH
MUMBLE
U-UH UM
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
I COULDN'T FIND ALL OF YOUR THINGS...
BUT I THINK I FOUND EVERYTHING OF IMPORTANCE.
TWITCH


SORRY FOR THE CRAMPED CONDITIONS.
BUT IT'S STILL BEATS WALKING
RWWR
RWWR
RWW
RW
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLUNK
CLEACH
PLEASE BE CAREFUL SO YOU DON'T FALL OFF BACK THERE!
WHOA!
F-RRRR
VROOM
AT LEAST IT'S NOT THE ROOF.
AND IT'S A NICE CAR.
IT WAS MADE WITH DURABILITY AND HORSE-POWER IN MIND.
BUH
UH


IT'S AMAZING HOW FAST THESE AUTO-MOBILES GO...
LOOK, WE WERE JUST THERE, BUT IT'S SO FAR NOW
.....?!
BOOOM
YEE-OUCH!
WHAT HAP-PENED?
PWI
I'M SORRY, I MIGHT'VE USED A LITTLE TOO MUCH GUNPOW-DER..
BUT WE CANNOT LEAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT YOU OR THE DEMONS WERE INVOLVED
THAT W. S YOUR DOING?


ONE MUST LEAVE NOTHING NOT EVEN A SPECK OR A TRACE OF ONE'S EXISTENCE
THAT'S HOW WE OPERATE.
HEY, I KNOW THERE WEREN'T ANY SURVIVORS LEFT
BUT THEY WERE HUMAN ONCE WHAT IF THEIR FAMILIES WANTED TO BURY THE REMAINS?!
HEE HEE
OH, NO..
THOSE WERE NOT HUMANS
BUT NEITHER COULD THEY BECOME DEMONS, SO THEY REMAINED AS MERE SHADOWS OF WHAT THEY ONCE WERE.
THE ONLY ONES WHO'D WANT SUCH A THING
GOOD POINT
HA HA HA.
WOULD BE RESEARCHERS IN THE ORGANIZATION OR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEMSELVES IN THE OCCULT

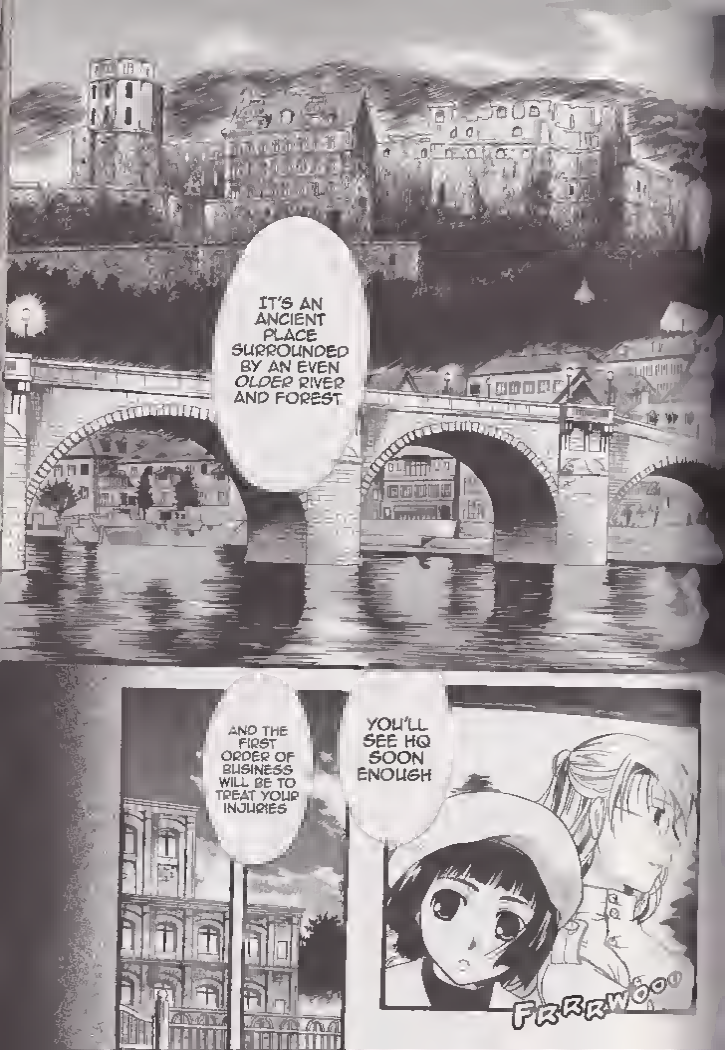
BATAN
HUH, I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS GERMAN BRANCH
INDEED
THE ORGANIZATION REACHES FAR AND WIDE--
AND HAS CONNECTIONS BEYOND THIS WORLD
I HAVEN'T FORMALLY INTRODUCED MYSELF, HAVE I?
FROOO
MY NAME IS TRUDE KURTZ, AND I AM THE HEAD OF THE GERMAN RESEARCH DIVISION OF ADAM KADMON
IS HIS TERRITORY AND OUR FINAL DESTINATION--
CORRECT. THOUGH, THE GERMAN RESEARCH DIVISION--
TEKS
SHE IS MY LITTLE SISTER AND HIS DAUGHTER
THE MADCHEN HERE IS GERTRUDE
SU
ER...

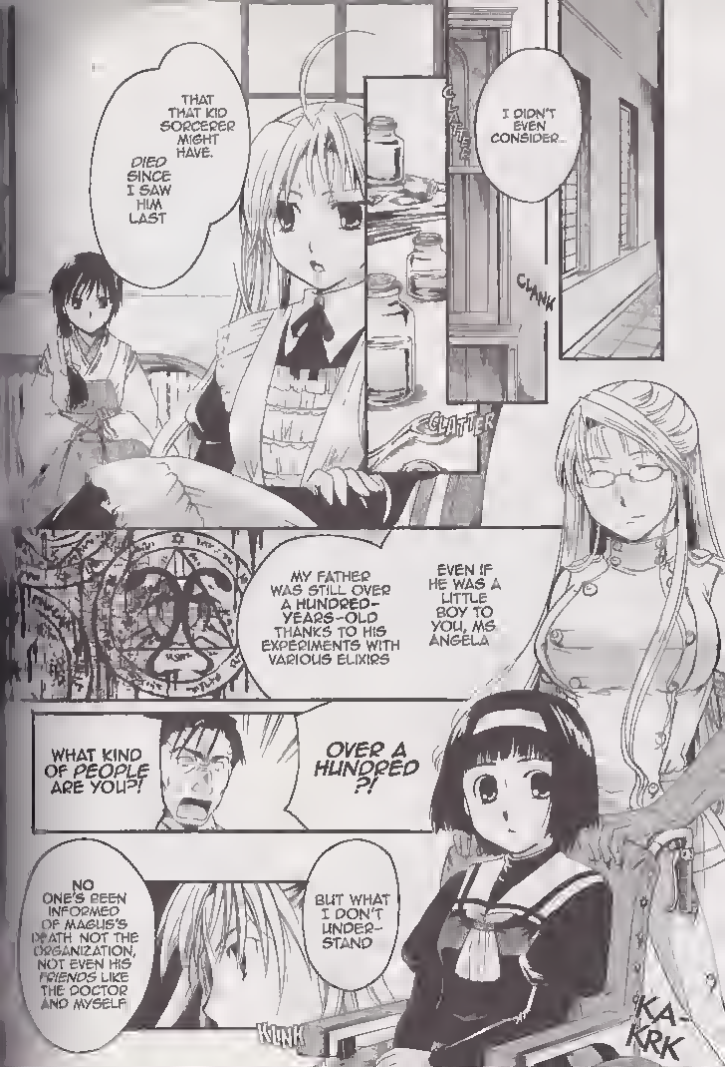

!!!
CHIK
CHIK
IT'S ALL RIGHT I'M HERE...
SHE'S A LITTLE BASHFUL AROUND STRANGERS BECAUSE OF HER DISABILITY
DON'T BE SHY
FIDGET FIDGET
MEINE SCHWESTER
SQUEEZE
IT'S AN ODDLY CONSIDERATE GESTURE FROM MAGUS
IT WAS MY CALL
FRRRWOO
MEETING UP WITH YOU WAS A PLEASANT SURPRISE

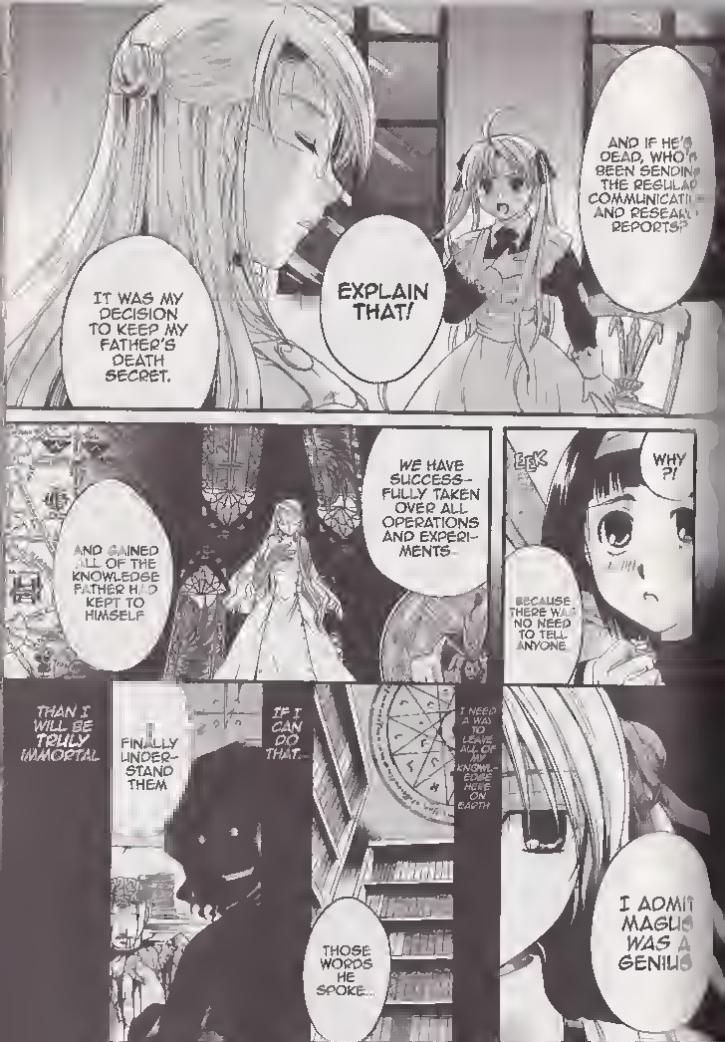
WHERE IS HE?
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S NOT SOMETHING HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF
HE DIED.
IT WAS A VERY FITTING END FOR A SORCERER
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
AH.
SO HE'S DEAD TOO

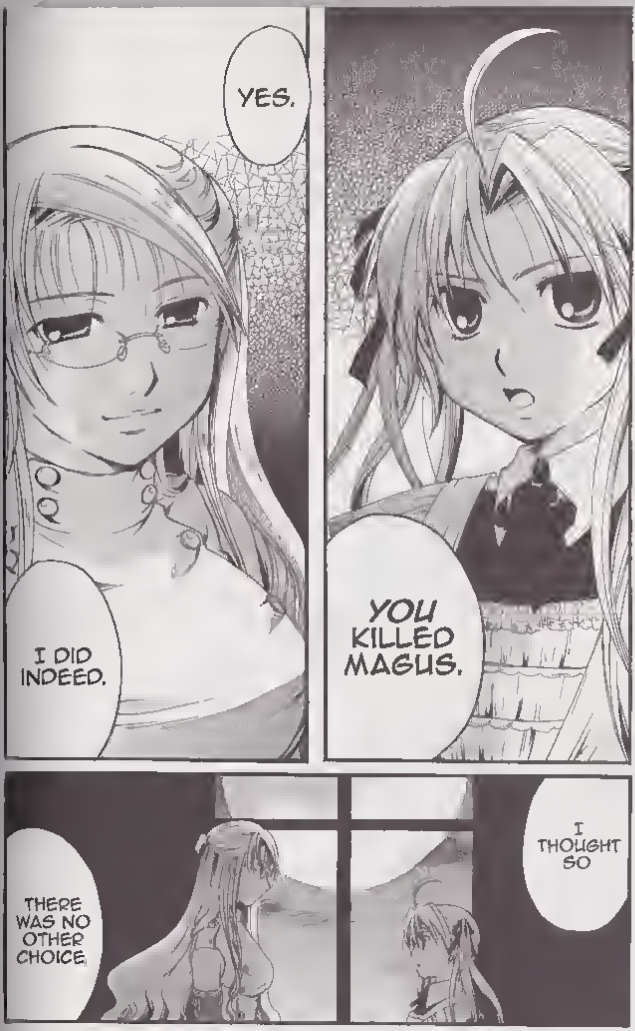
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TRULY AWFUL WAY TO GO.
HEH, WELL THEN
YES... IT WAS ACTUALLY.
HOW LONG TILL WE REACH OUR DESTINATION?
WE'RE ALMOST THERE
BA-TAN
BA-TAN
IN THIS LAND, PROTECTED BY RIVERS AND FORESTS
PEOPLE HAVE LONG BEEN FREE TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN RELIGIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES
WHEN YOU FEEL THE BREEZE OFF THE RIVER, YOU'LL KNOW WE'RE CLOSE
FWOOSH

AND HERE WE ARE, THE HOME BASE FOR THE GERMAN DIVISION...
HEIDEL-BERG.
THE KARL THEODOR BRIDGE HERE.
IS THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CITY.
KA-THUMP
KA-THUMP
THIS TOWN?

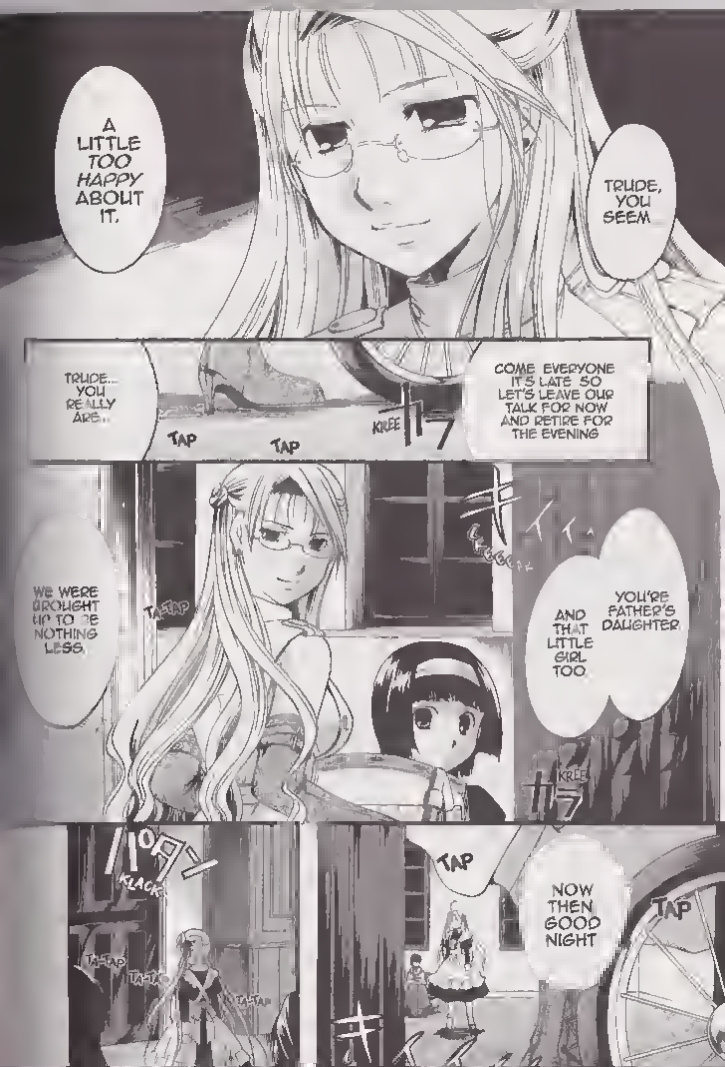

IT'S AN ANCIENT PLACE SURROUNDED BY AN EVEN OLDER RIVER AND FOREST
AND THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WILL BE TO TREAT YOUR INJURIES
YOU'LL SEE HQ SOON ENOUGH
FRRRRWOO


THAT THAT KID SORCERER MIGHT HAVE. DIED SINCE I SAW HIM LAST
I DIDN'T EVEN CONSIDER...
CLATTER
CLANK
CLATTER
EVEN IF HE WAS A LITTLE BOY TO YOU, MS. ANGELA
MY FATHER WAS STILL OVER A HUNDRED-YEARS-OLD THANKS TO HIS EXPERIMENTS WITH VARIOUS ELIXIRS
OVER A HUNDRED ?!
WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE YOU?!
BUT WHAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND
NO ONE'S BEEN INFORMED OF MAGUS'S DEATH NOT THE ORGANIZATION, NOT EVEN HIS FRIENDS LIKE THE DOCTOR AND MYSELF
KUNK
KA-KRK


IT WAS MY DECISION TO KEEP MY FATHER'S DEATH SECRET.
EXPLAIN THAT!
AND IF HE'S DEAD, WHO'S BEEN SENDING THE REGULAR COMMUNICATION AND RESEARCH REPORTS?
AND GAINED ALL OF THE KNOWLEDGE FATHER HAD KEPT TO HIMSELF
WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN OVER ALL OPERATIONS AND EXPERIMENTS.
EEK
WHY?!
BECAUSE THERE WAS NO NEED TO TELL ANYONE.
THAN I WILL BE TRULY IMMORTAL
FINALLY UNDERSTAND THEM
IF I CAN DO THAT...
I NEED A WAY TO LEAVE ALL OF MY KNOWLEDGE HERE ON EARTH
THOSE WORDS HE SPOKE...
I ADMIT MAGUS WAS A GENIUS


YES.
I DID INDEED.
YOU KILLED MAGUS.
I THOUGHT SO
THERE WAS NO OTHER CHOICE.

THE ONLY WAY TO INHERIT ALL THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE POSSESSED...
WAS TO TAKE OUT HIS BRAIN WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE.
SNIFF
THAT WAS MAGUS'S-- NO OUR FATHER'S LAST WISH.
THAT'S JUST LIKE HIM TO ASK SUCH HARD FAVORS EVEN AT THE VERY END
STILL...

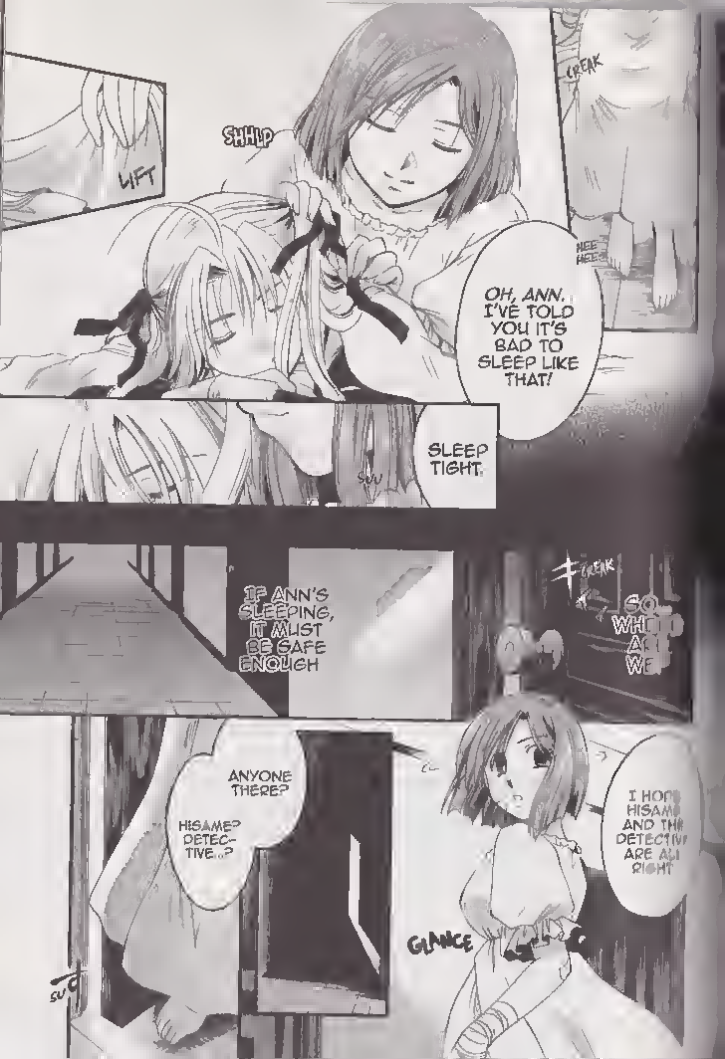

A LITTLE TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT.
TRUDE, YOU SEEM
TRUDE... YOU REALLY ARE...
TAP
TAP
KREE
COME EVERYONE IT'S LATE SO LET'S LEAVE OUR TALK FOR NOW AND RETIRE FOR THE EVENING
WE WERE BROUGHT UP TO BE NOTHING LESS.
TAP TAP
AND THAT LITTLE GIRL TOO
YOU'RE FATHER'S DAUGHTER
KREE
KLACK
TAP TAP
TAP
TAP
NOW THEN GOOD NIGHT
TAP

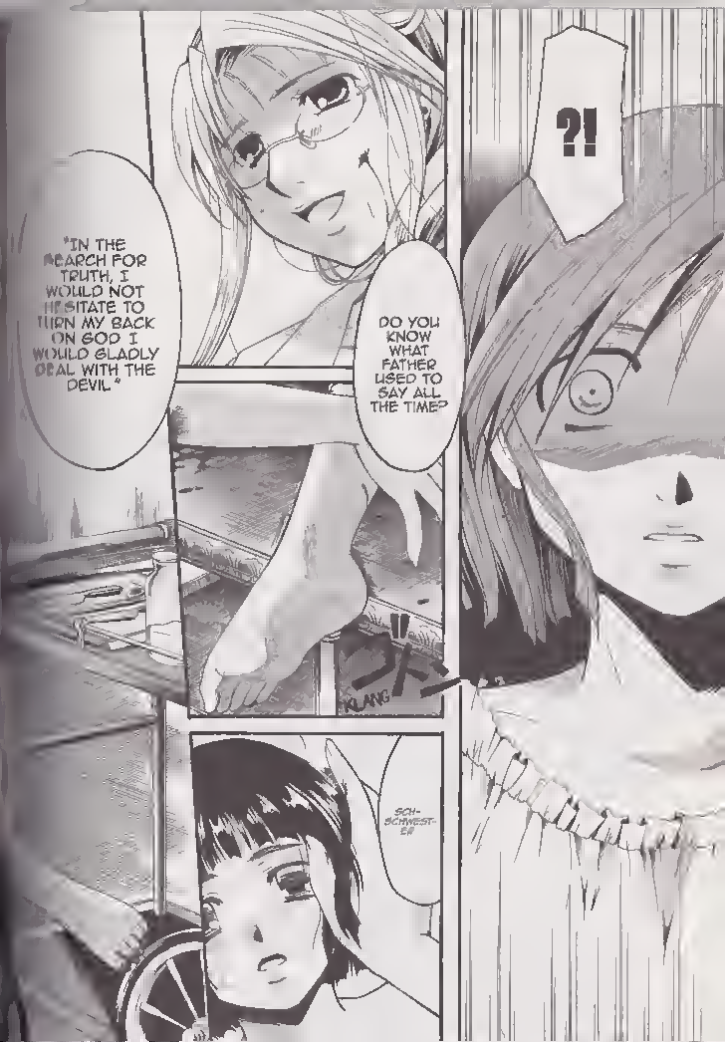
I GUESS MY ROOM IS THIS WAY
IS THIS PLACE REALLY SAFE?
BECAUSE I DON'T TRUST THAT WOMAN
HM.
OF COURSE NOT
NOBODY IN THIS ORGANIZATION HAS A CLEAN SLATE
TURN
YOU KNOW THAT.
GOOD NIGHT, HISAMÉ.
PULL
TAP
KLANK
TAP

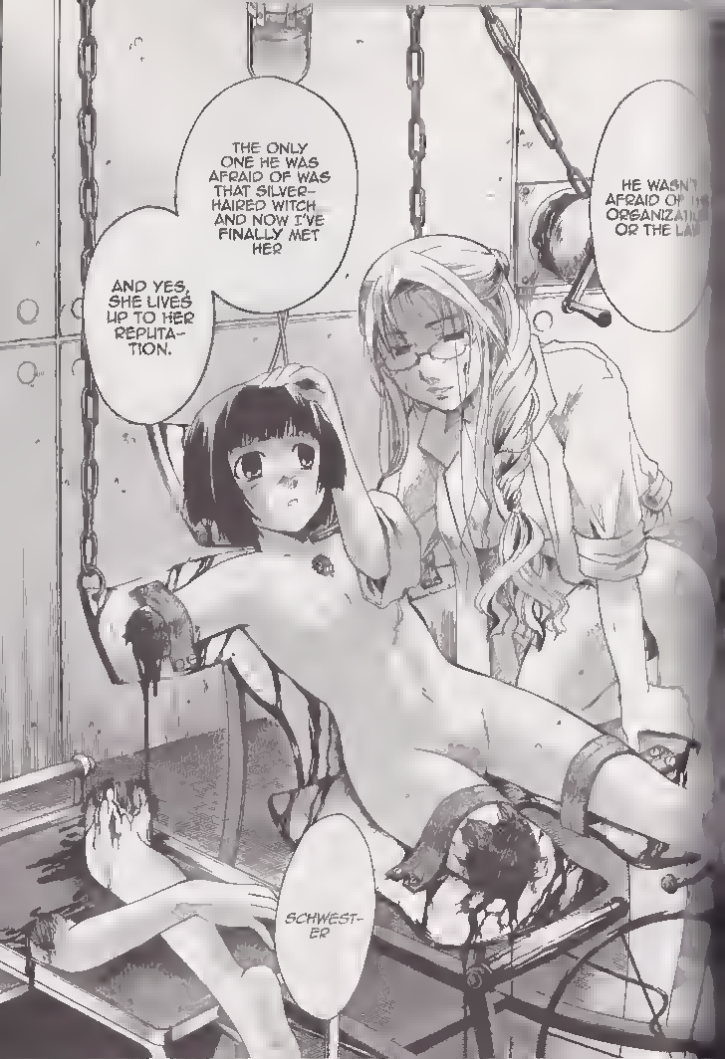
GET BETTER SOON.
PLEASE...
SUU
MEG...
I CAN'T EVEN EXIST.
WITHOUT YOU
BUT I WAS ABLE TO FEEL THE TRUE FEELINGS THAT WERE HIDDEN IN THOSE WORDS
TIME AND THOUGHT EVERYTHING JUST STOPPED.
WHEN YOU DIDN'T WISH FOR MY REGENERATION

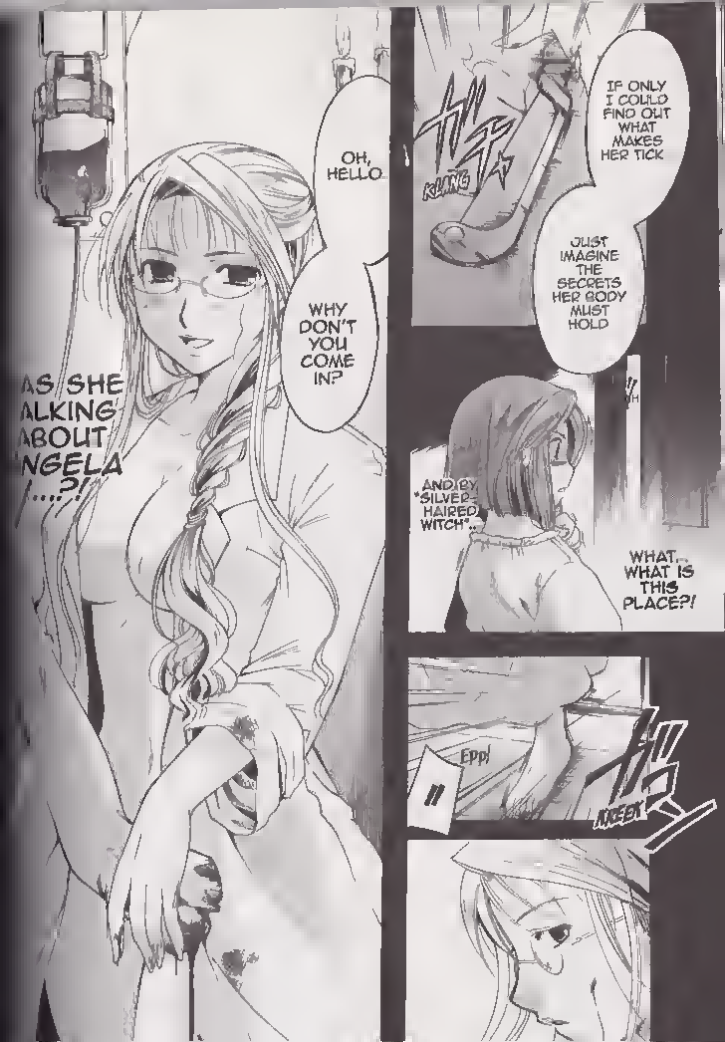
WITH YOUR THOUGHTS
WITH YOUR BODY
CALL MY NAME.
SHOW ME YOU NEED ME.
SHLP
YOU'RE MY OTHER HALF
SO PLEASE
SLUMP
...I'M SO TIRED
I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS TIRED...
CREAK
MNN...

UH...
HMM
ANGELA ...?
!
SQUEEZE
YOU WERE HOLDING MY HAND THE WHOLE TIME.
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?!
IS THERE A MIRROR, SIS?
!!
HUH? WHEN DID I GET HURT?

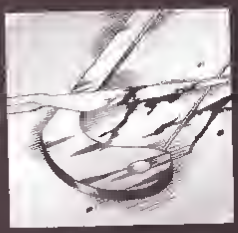

LIFT
SHHHH
CREAK
HEE HEE
OH, ANN. I'VE TOLD YOU IT'S BAD TO SLEEP LIKE THAT!
SLEEP TIGHT.
SUU
IF ANN'S SLEEPING, IT MUST BE SAFE ENOUGH
CREAK
SO WH A W
ANYONE THERE?
HISAME? DETEC-TIVE...?
I HOP HISAM AND THE DETECTIV ARE ALL RIGHT
GLANCE
SU


?!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT FATHER USED TO SAY ALL THE TIME?
"IN THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO TURN MY BACK ON GOD I WOULD GLADLY DEAL WITH THE DEVIL."
KLANG
SCH-SCHWEST-ER


HE WASN'T AFRAID OF
ORGANIZATI
OR THE LA
THE ONLY ONE HE WAS AFRAID OF WAS THAT SILVER-HAIRED WITCH AND NOW I'VE FINALLY MET HER
AND YES, SHE LIVES UP TO HER REPUTATION.
SCHWEST-ER


AS SHE
ALKING
ABOUT
NGELA
...?!
OH,
HELLO.
WHY
DON'T
YOU
COME
IN?
KLANG
IF ONLY
I COULD
FIND OUT
WHAT
MAKES
HER TICK
JUST
IMAGINE
THE
SECRETS
HER BODY
MUST
HOLD
!!
WH
AND BY
"SILVER-
HAIRED
WITCH"...
WHAT...
WHAT IS
THIS
PLACE?!
EPP!
KNEE!

KLAK

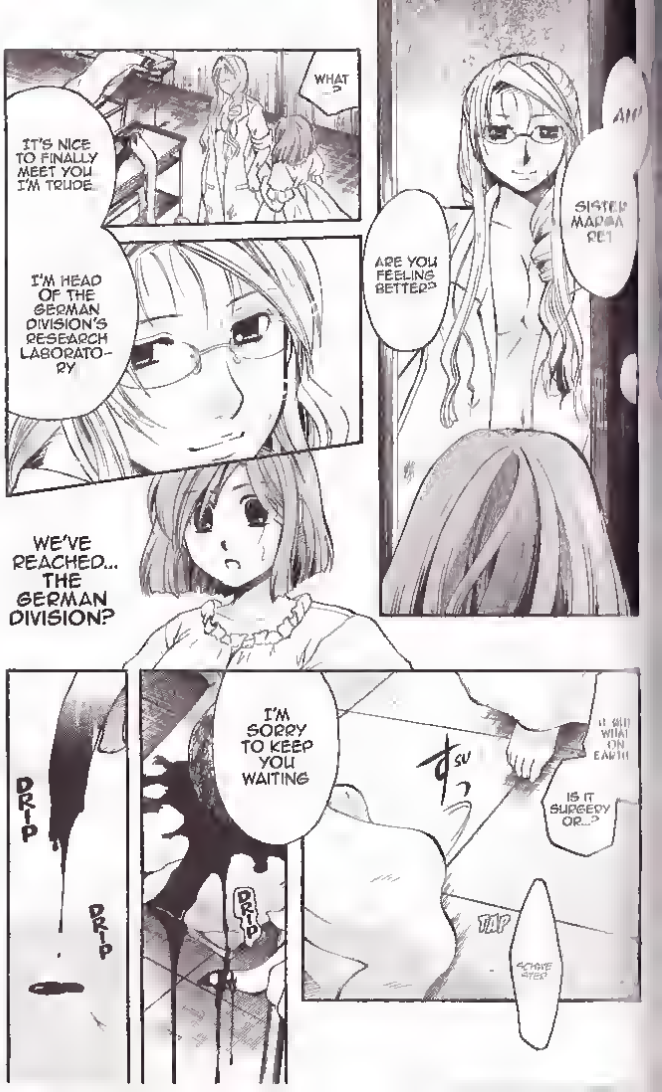


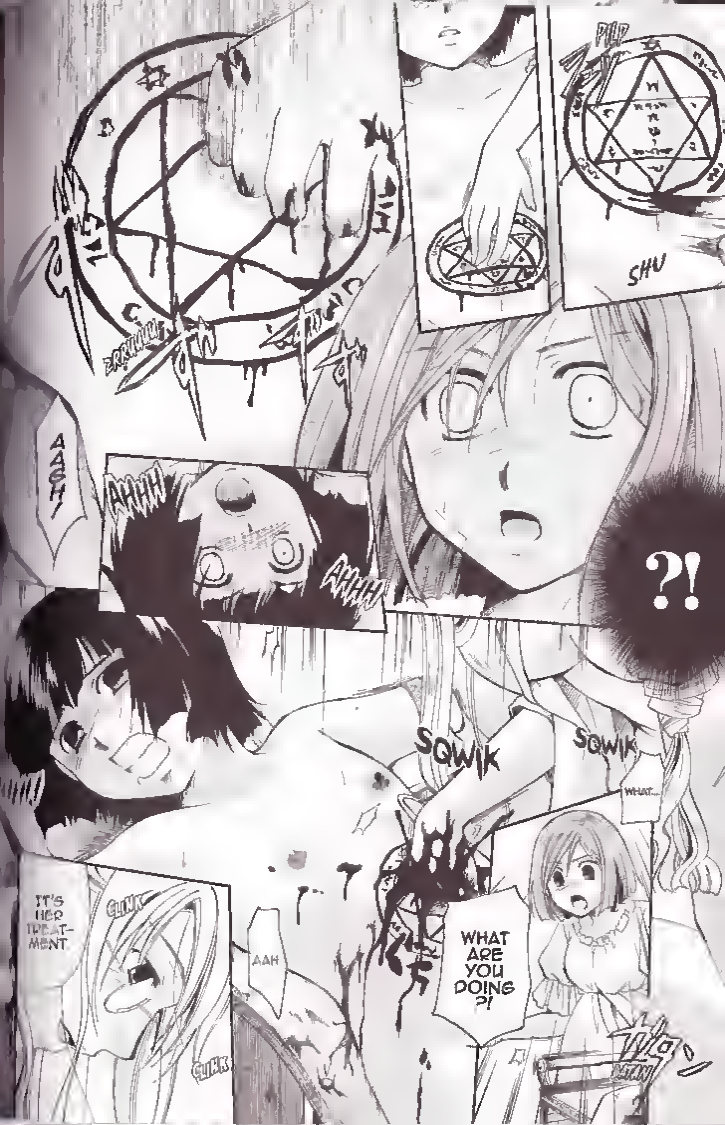
YES, DO COME IN.

TAP
TAP
AHH
CREAK

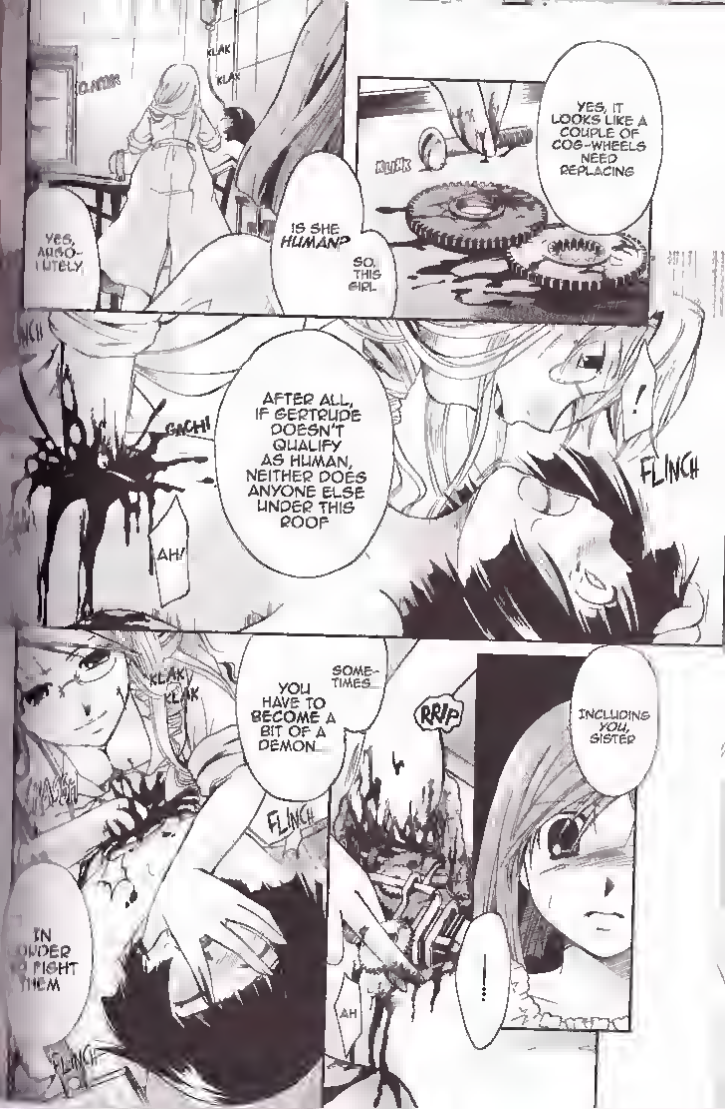
NO NEED TO HIDE ..
CREEEEAK

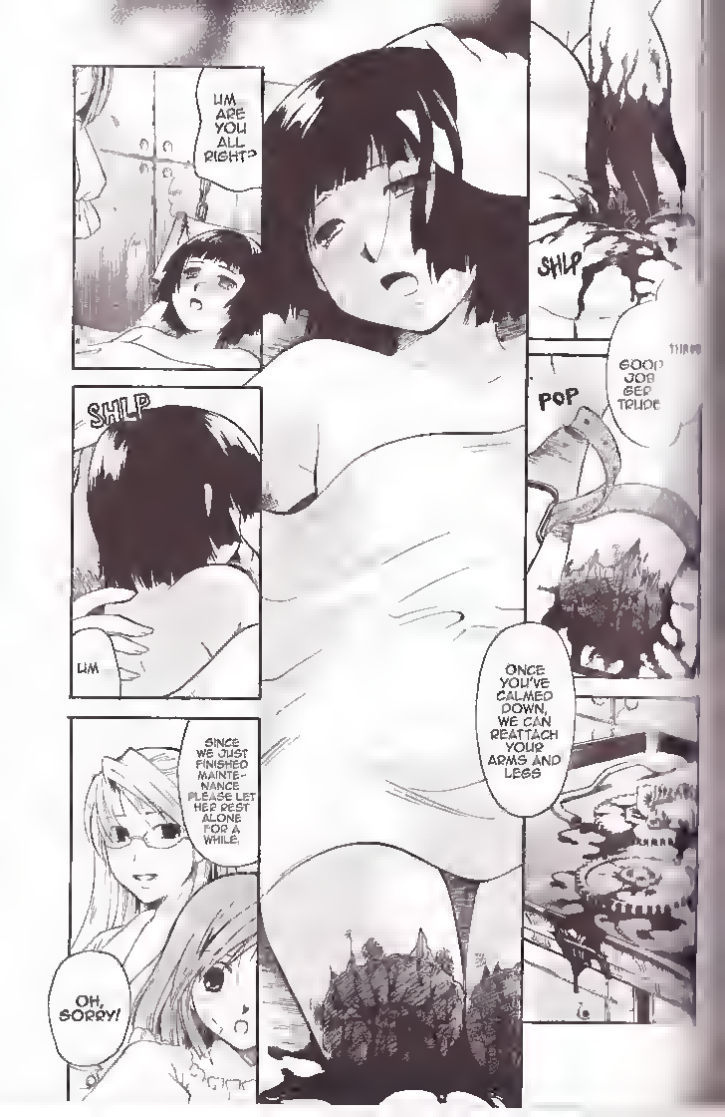
Crime. 22 Ghosts


WHAT—?
IT'S NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU I'M TRUDE
I'M HEAD OF THE GERMAN DIVISION'S RESEARCH LABORATORY
WE'VE REACHED... THE GERMAN DIVISION?
AH!
SISTER MARIA RET
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
I'M SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
SU
TAP
IS IT SURGERY OR...?

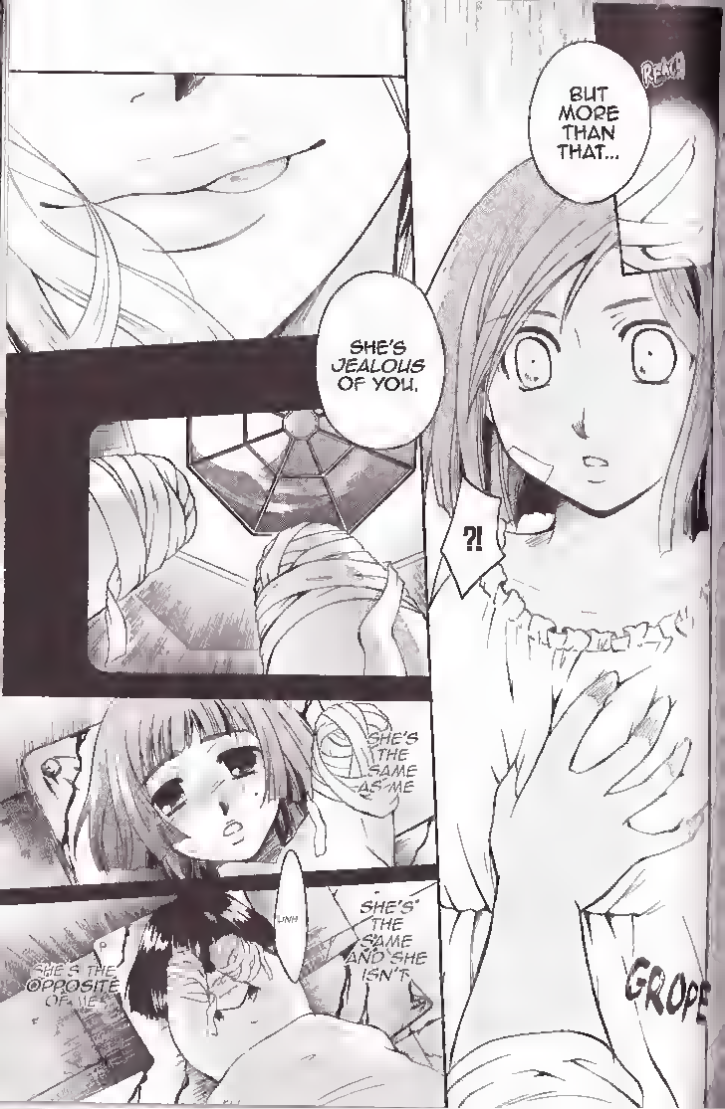

PHP
SHU
AAGH!
AHHH
AHHH
?!
SQWIK
SQWIK
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AAH
IT'S HER TREATMENT.
CLICK
CLICK

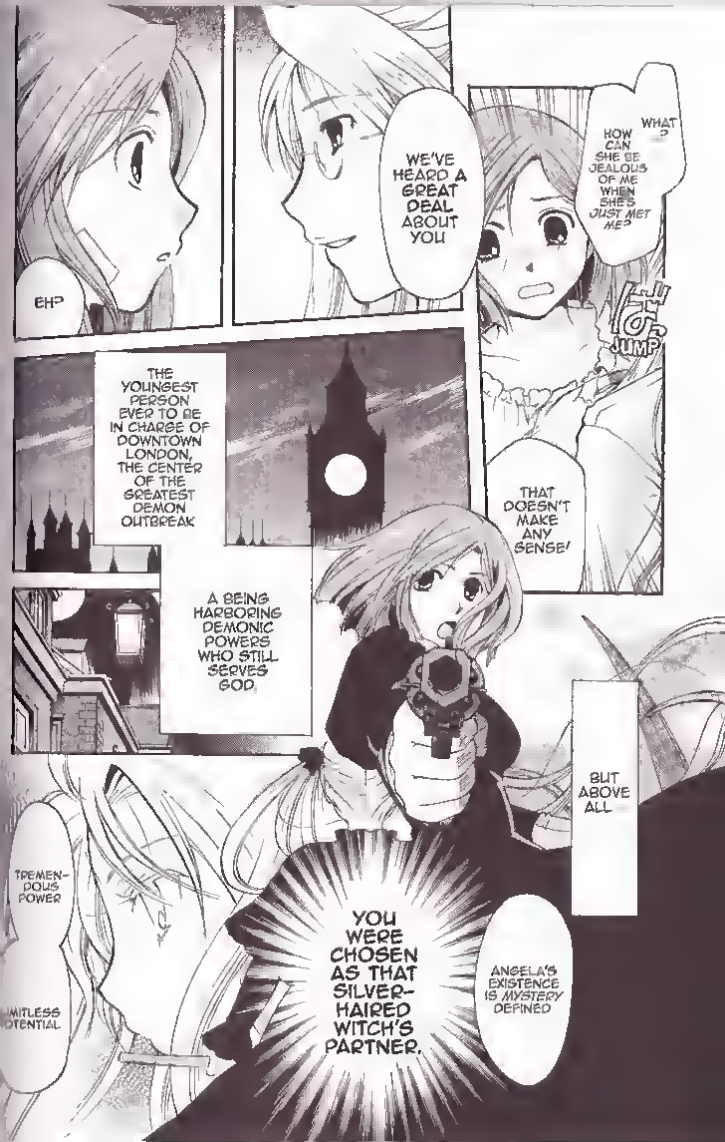
SCH
SCHWE STER
THWAK
WELL MORE MAINTE NANCE
GACHUNK
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
KACHUNK
BURN
MAINTE-NANCE ..?
ROLL
THESE ARE PROSTHETIC ARMS AND LEGS COVERED IN ARTIFICIAL SKIN AND MUSCLE
HER BODY HAS MACHINERY BURIED INSIDE IT, WHICH KEEP HER INTERNAL ORGANS WORKING
AH
INSTEAD OF CELLS, THE COG-WHEELS CREAK
RATHER THAN VEINS, CRYSTAL PIPES RUN THROUGH HER BODY
MY LITTLE SISTER CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE
WITH REGULAR MAINTE NANCE AND ADJUST MENT
WHRRR

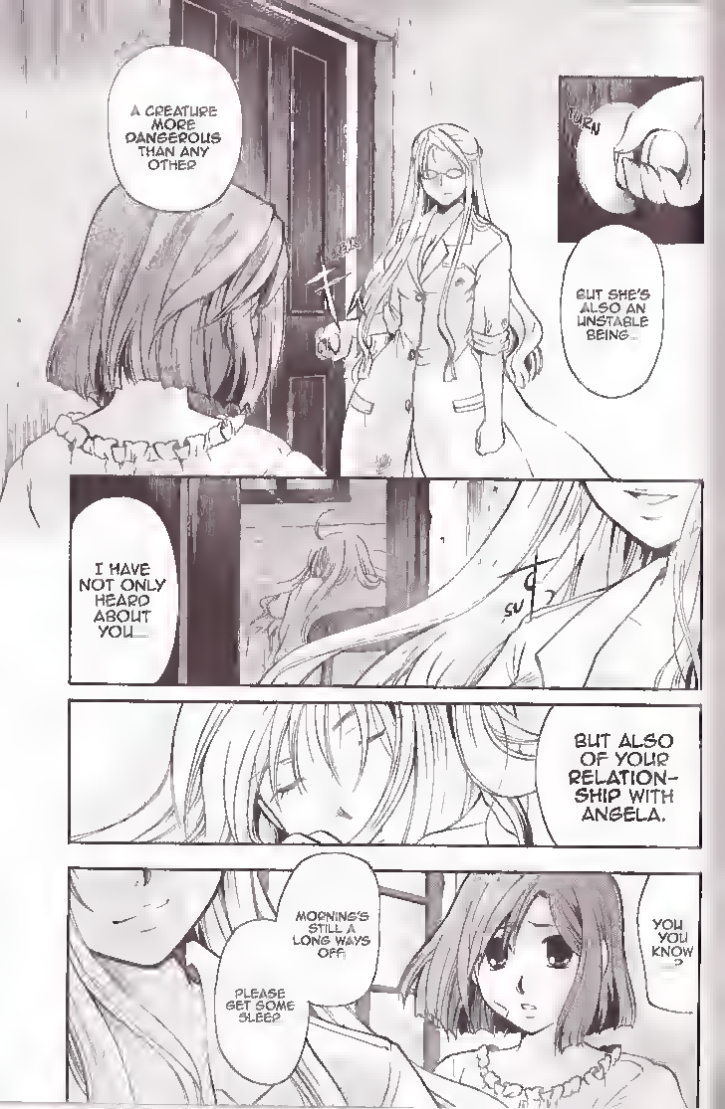

KLAK
KLAK
YES, ABSOLUTELY
IS SHE HUMAN?
SO, THIS GIRL
KLUNK
YES, IT LOOKS LIKE A COUPLE OF COG-WHEELS NEED REPLACING
GACH!
AH!
AFTER ALL, IF GERTRUDE DOESN'T QUALIFY AS HUMAN, NEITHER DOES ANYONE ELSE UNDER THIS ROOF
FLINCH
KLAK
KLAK
YOU HAVE TO BECOME A BIT OF A DEMON...
SOME-TIMES...
FLINCH
RRIP
INCLUDING YOU, SISTER
IN ORDER TO FIGHT THEM
FLINCH
AH
!

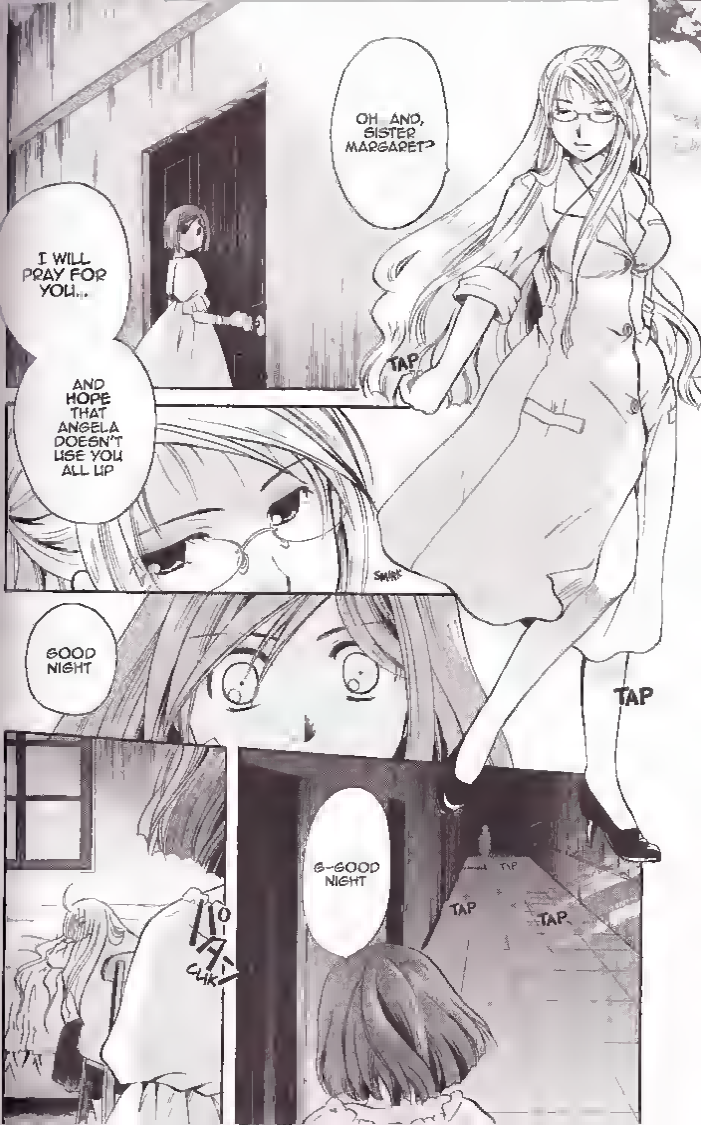

UM, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SHLP
GOOD JOB SEO TRUDE
POP
SHLP
UM
ONCE YOU'VE CALMED DOWN, WE CAN REATTACH YOUR ARMS AND LEGS
SINCE WE JUST FINISHED MAINTE-NANCE, PLEASE LET HER REST ALONE FOR A WHILE.
OH, SORRY!

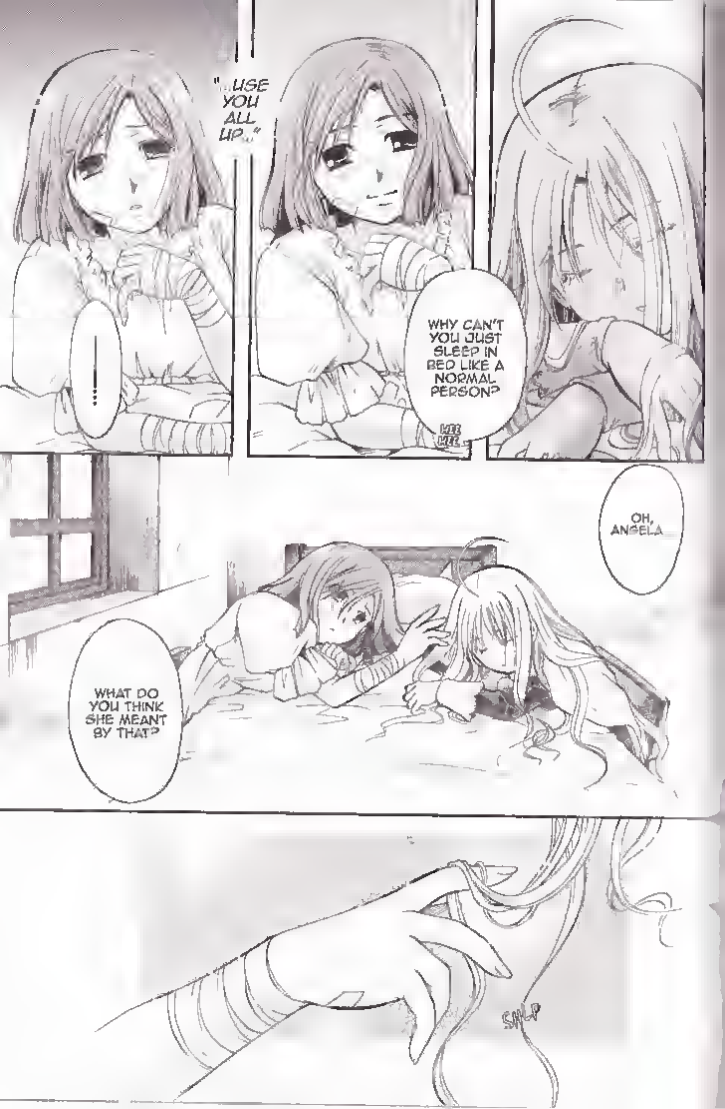
YOU CAN'T BE FULLY RECOVERED YET EITHER
SO YOU SHOULD REST TOO
I'LL WALK YOU TO YOUR ROOM
TA-TAP
UH... THANK YOU
UM, TRUDE?
YES?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOUR SISTER...
SHTP
SHTP
WHEN I ASKED IF SHE WAS HUMAN, IT CAME OUT SO RUDELY.
DON'T WORRY.
SHE'S JUST SCARED OF STRANGERS.
AND EVEN THOUGH IT WAS DURING MAINTENANCE, SHE WAS EMBARRASSED THAT YOU SAW HER NAKED.
OH, RIGHT...


BUT MORE THAN THAT...
REACH
?!
GROPE
SHE'S JEALOUS OF YOU.
SHE'S THE SAME AS ME
SHE'S THE SAME AND SHE ISN'T.
UNH
SHE'S THE OPPOSITE OF ME


EH?
WE'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU
WHAT?
HOW CAN SHE BE JEALOUS OF ME WHEN SHE'S JUST MET ME?
JUMP
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
THE YOUNGEST PERSON EVER TO BE IN CHARGE OF DOWNTOWN LONDON, THE CENTER OF THE GREATEST DEMON OUTBREAK
A BEING HARBORING DEMONIC POWERS WHO STILL SERVES GOD.
BUT ABOVE ALL
TREMENDOUS POWER
LIMITLESS POTENTIAL
YOU WERE CHOSEN AS THAT SILVER-HAIRED WITCH'S PARTNER.
ANGELA'S EXISTENCE IS MYSTERY DEFINED

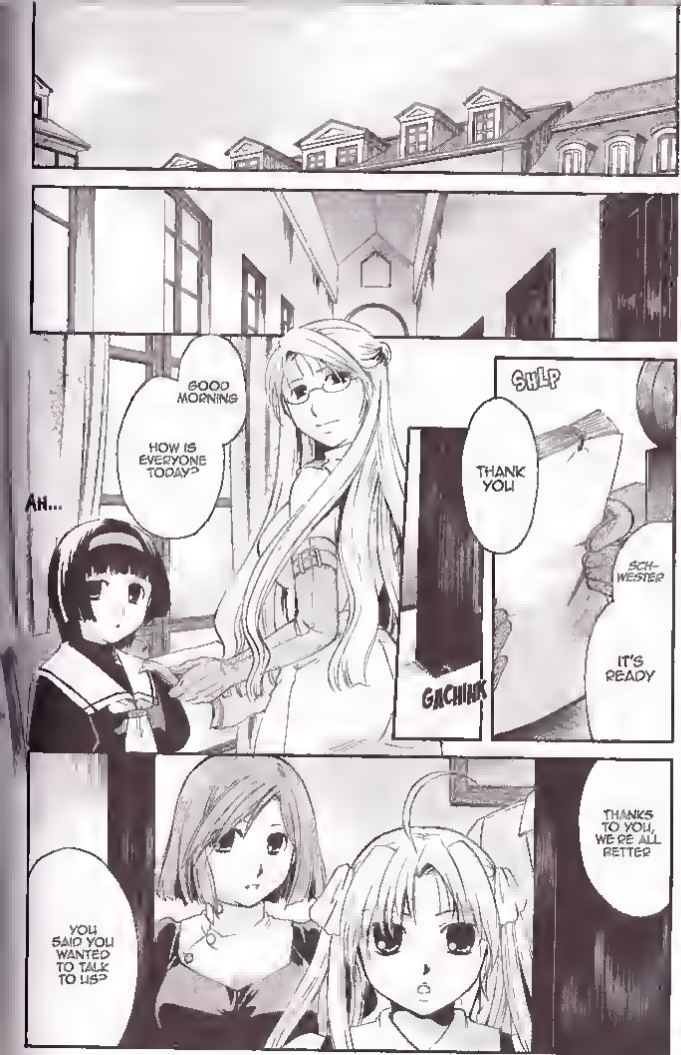

A CREATURE MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANY OTHER
TURN
BUT SHE'S ALSO AN UNSTABLE BEING...
I HAVE NOT ONLY HEARD ABOUT YOU...
BUT ALSO OF YOUR RELATION-SHIP WITH ANGELA.
MORNING'S STILL A LONG WAYS OFF.
PLEASE GET SOME SLEEP.
YOU, YOU KNOW...?


OH... AND, SISTER MARGARET?
I WILL PRAY FOR YOU...
AND HOPE THAT ANGELA DOESN'T USE YOU ALL UP
TAP
SWIRL
GOOD NIGHT
TAP
G-GOOD NIGHT
TAP
TAP
TAP
CLICK

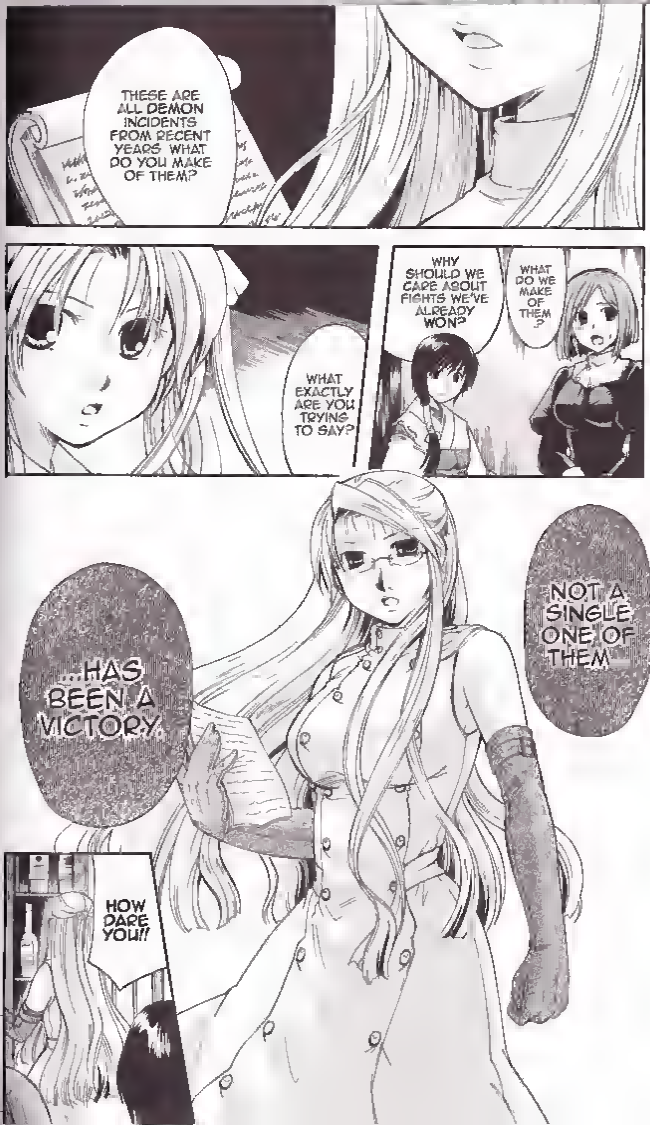

"...USE YOU ALL UP..."
!
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST SLEEP IN BED LIKE A NORMAL PERSON?
HEE HEE...
OH, ANGELA
WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MEANT BY THAT?
SMILE

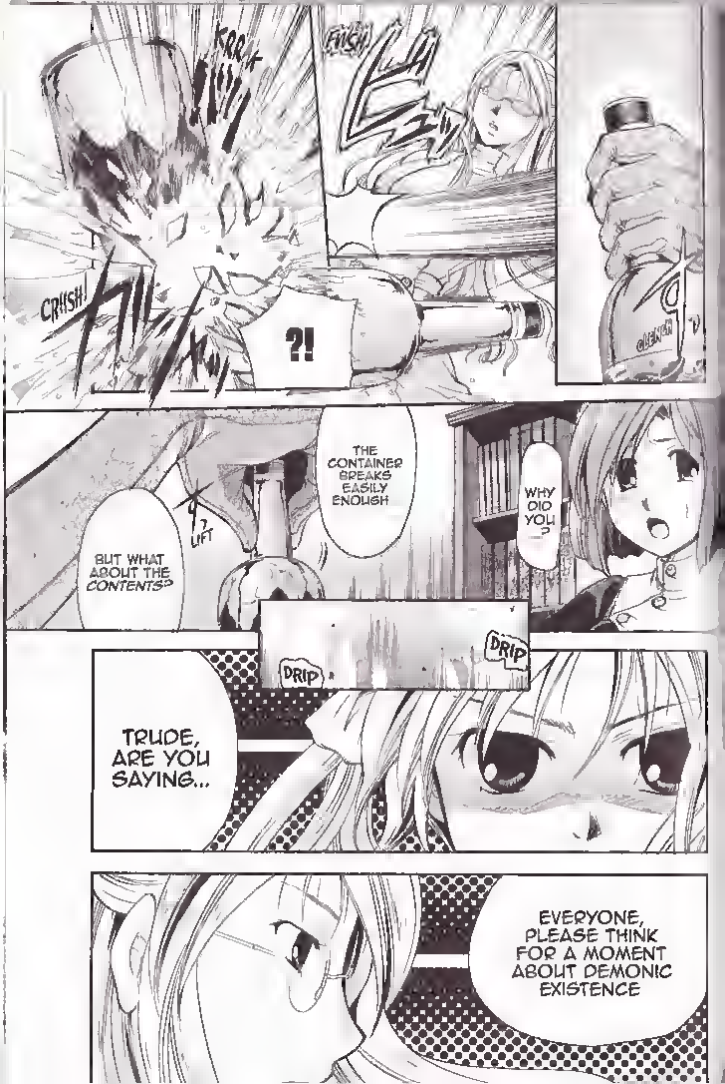
FWOOOO

SHIP
SHIP
SHIP
SHIP
WOOOSH
ZAN

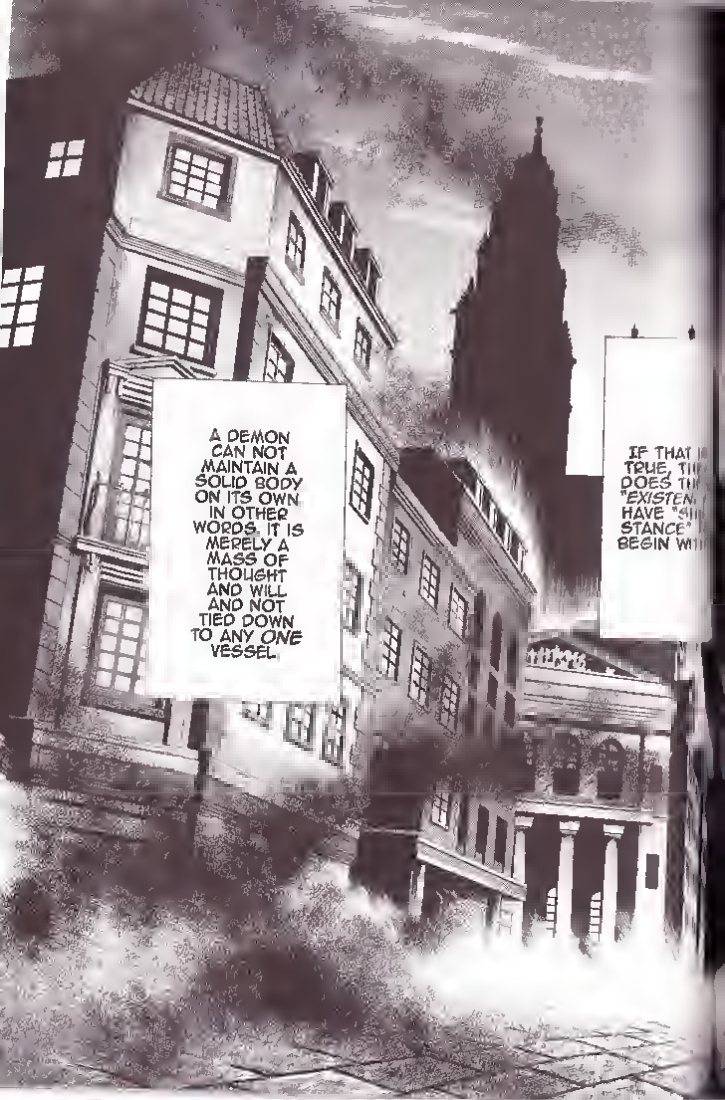

GOOD MORNING
HOW IS EVERYONE TODAY?
AH...
SWIP
THANK YOU
SCH-WESTER
IT'S READY
GACHINK
THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE ALL BETTER
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO TALK TO US?

CLICK
YES
FIRST PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THESE IMAGES
CLICK
SHA
?!
WHAT'S THIS?!
OCTOBER 21, NORTHERN FRANCE
JULY 13, WEST LONDON
SEPTEMBER 3, SOUTHERN GERMANY
CLICK


THESE ARE ALL DEMON INCIDENTS FROM RECENT YEARS. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THEM?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT FIGHTS WE'VE ALREADY WON?
WHAT DO WE MAKE OF THEM?
NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM
...HAS BEEN A VICTORY.
HOW DARE YOU!!

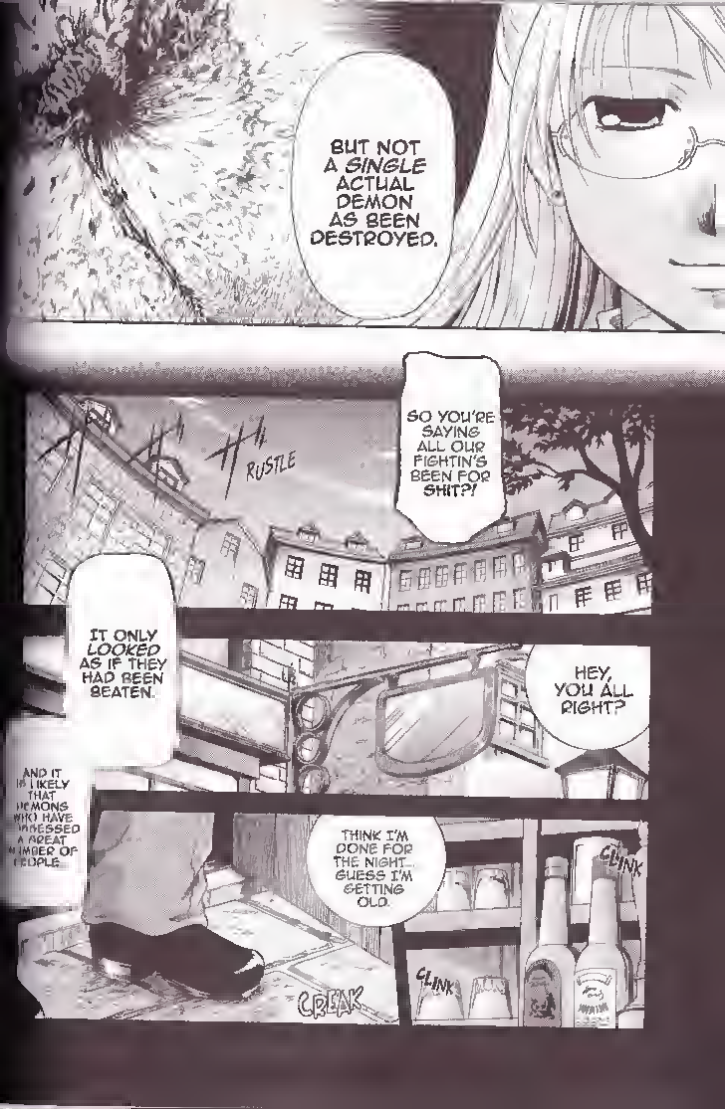

KRRK
FWISH
CRUSH!
?!
WHY DID YOU...?
THE CONTAINER BREAKS EASILY ENOUGH
LIFT
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CONTENTS?
DRIP
DRIP
TRUDE, ARE YOU SAYING...
EVERYONE, PLEASE THINK FOR A MOMENT ABOUT DEMONIC EXISTENCE

WHO KNOWS WHEN DEMONS FIRST STARTED *SLIPPING* INTO OUR WORLD THROUGH ITS CRACKS AND CREVICES
DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC SHADOWS OF STREET LIGHTS... CLOSED ROOMS ON TRAINS AND PASSENGER BOATS. FIGHTS AT THE MARKET-PLACE... THEY POSSESS HUMANS AND BORROW THEIR BODIES. CRAVING OUR ETHER, THEY SPRING OUT AT US FROM THE DARKNESS.
"HATRED." "CURSES." "LUST." "EVOCATION" CALLED UPON BY HUMANS, THEY POSSESS THEM AND THEIR EXISTENCE GAINS SUBSTANCE.

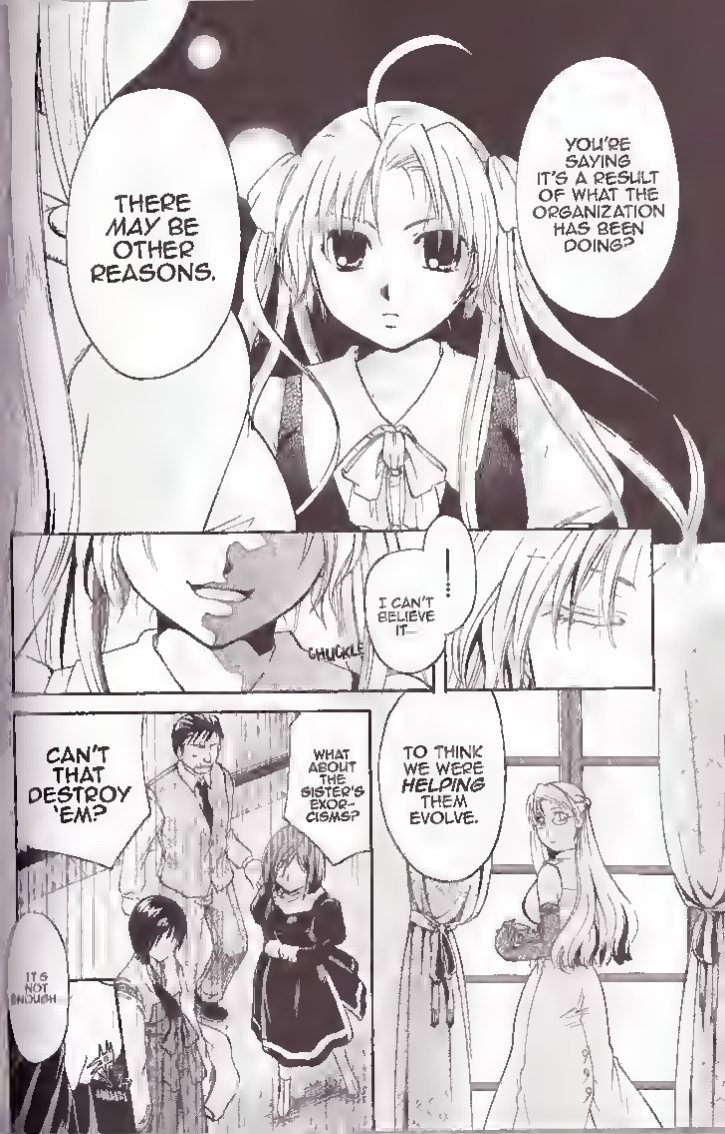

A DEMON CAN NOT MAINTAIN A SOLID BODY ON ITS OWN. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS MERELY A MASS OF THOUGHT AND WILL AND NOT TIED DOWN TO ANY ONE VESSEL.
IF THAT I
TRUE, TH
DOES TH
"EXISTEN
HAVE "SU
STANCE"
BEGIN WI

HAHA-HA...
HA-HA-HA!
I SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT.
I GET IT! SO THAT'S WHY THEIR NUMBERS HAVEN'T GONE
AHA-HA-HA!
ALL THIS TIME, EVERY FIGHT, EVERY LIFE LOST...
AHA-HA!
ANGELA ?!
WELL, I MYSELF ONLY REALIZED IT VERY RECENTLY
Grit
THIS WHOLE TIME WE WERE ONLY DESTROY-ING THE VESSEL!
BUT LEFT THE ACTUAL DEMON UN-TOUCHED!!
GLARE

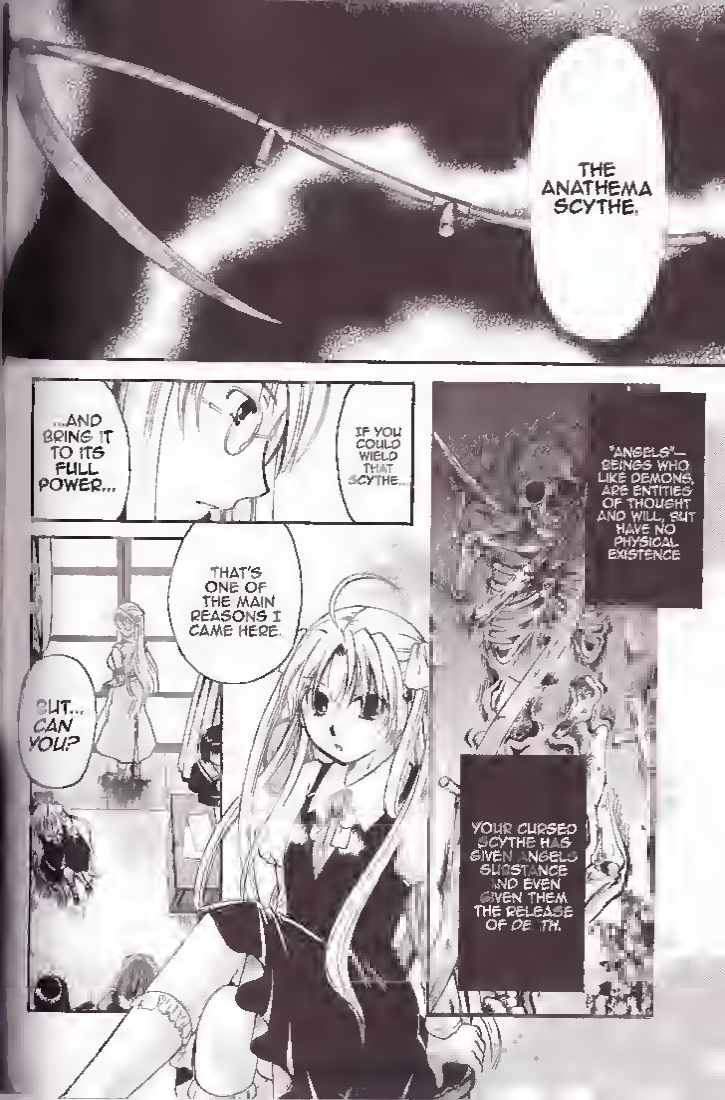
THAT CAN'T BE...!
ZAWA
Uh...
WHAT?!
CLATTER
IT'S TRUE.
AND THEY ARE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BREAK VESSELS STRENGTHENED BY DEMONIC POSSESSION...
THEY MAY BE ENCHANTED
THINK OF YOUR WEAPONS


BUT NOT A SINGLE ACTUAL DEMON AS BEEN DESTROYED.
RUSTLE
SO YOU'RE SAYING ALL OUR FIGHTIN'S BEEN FOR SHIT?!
IT ONLY LOOKED AS IF THEY HAD BEEN BEATEN.
HEY, YOU ALL RIGHT?
AND IT IS LIKELY THAT DEMONS WHO HAVE POSSESSED A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE
THINK I'M DONE FOR THE NIGHT... GUESS I'M GETTING OLD.
CLINK
CLINK
CREAK

THERE IS A GREAT DEAL I DON'T UNDER-STAND YET...
BUSTLE
BUT IF THINGS KEEP GOING THIS WAY...
YEAH ACTUALLY I'M NOT FEELING TOO HOT MYSELF
ME EITHER I'M USUALLY NOT SUCH A LIGHT WEIGHT
...WILL BEGIN TO EVOLVE
THEN ALL WE'VE DONE TILL NOW
IS TREAT THE SYMP-TOMS BUT NOT THE DISEASE
AND THE RECENT INCREASE IN DEMONIC ACTIVITY...
SHAA


YOU'RE SAYING IT'S A RESULT OF WHAT THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN DOING?
THERE MAY BE OTHER REASONS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT—
!!
CHUCKLE
TO THINK WE WERE HELPING THEM EVOLVE.
WHAT ABOUT THE SISTER'S EXOR-CISMS?
CAN'T THAT DESTROY 'EM?
IT'S NOT ENOUGH

SCREECH
TRUDE...
YOU'VE KNOWN ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE BUT YOU'RE ONLY TELLING US NOW.
IF IT WERE A WEAKER DEMON BECAUSE HUMAN POSSESSION MAYBE
BUT A FULLY-REALIZED DEMON WITH A HUMAN VESSEL? IT'S TOO STRONG EVEN FOR ME
SO, I'M HOPING, FOR YOUR SAKE...
THAT THE REASON YOU CALLED US HERE...
WAS BECAUSE YOU'VE FOUND A SOLUTION?
INDEED
REALLY?!
BUT HOW?!


THE ANATHEMA SCYTHE.
...AND BRING IT TO ITS FULL POWER...
IF YOU COULD WIELD THAT SCYTHE...
"ANGELS"— BEINGS WHO, LIKE DEMONS, ARE ENTITIES OF THOUGHT AND WILL, BUT HAVE NO PHYSICAL EXISTENCE.
THAT'S ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS I CAME HERE.
BUT... CAN YOU?
YOUR CURSED SCYTHE HAS GIVEN ANGELS SUBSTANCE AND EVEN GIVEN THEM THE RELEASE OF DEATH.

WELL, LUCKILY FOR YOU...
THERE IS A WAY FOR US TO GET RID OF DEMONS.
THEN TELL ME, DAMNIT!
WAIT A SECOND!!
WHAT ABOUT US?!
I STILL HAVE TO AVENGE EDITH!!
SWAY
UGH...
VIBRATE
THUD

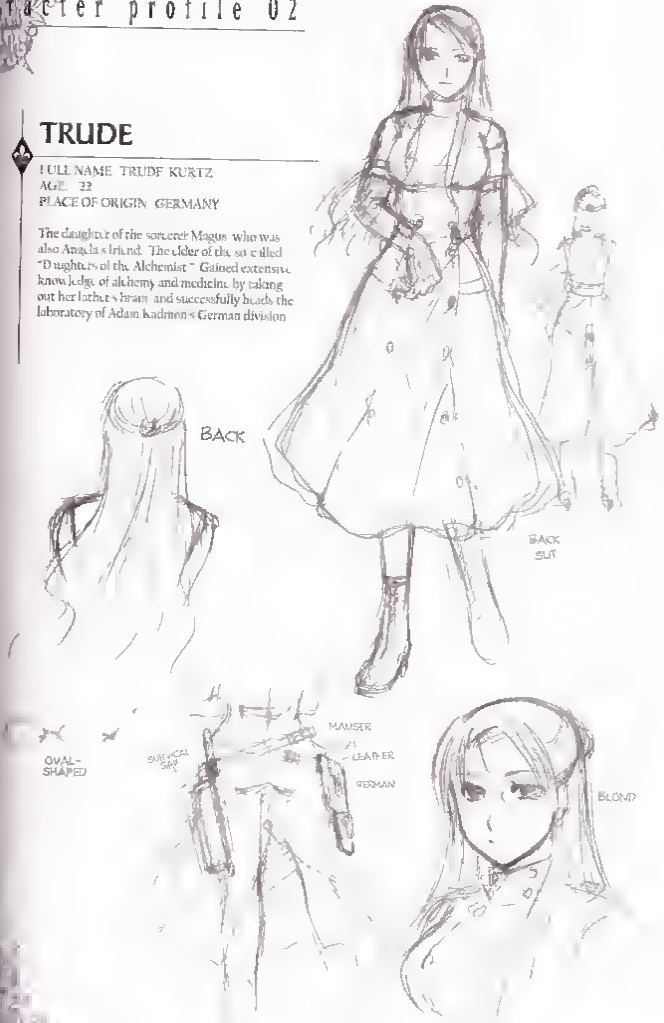
IT SEEMS LIKE THIS MIGHT BE THE PERFECT CHANCE...
TO SHOW YOU HOW.
SHWOOOO

A TERRIBLE FIRST IMPRESSION OF
THE TWO SISTERS...

TRUDE

FULL NAME TRUDE KURTZ
AGE 32
PLACE OF ORIGIN GERMANY

The daughter of the sorcerer Magus who was also Angela's friend. The elder of the so-called "Daughters of the Alchemist." Gained extensive knowledge of alchemy and medicine by taking out her father's brain and successfully hoards the laboratory of Adam Kadmon's German division

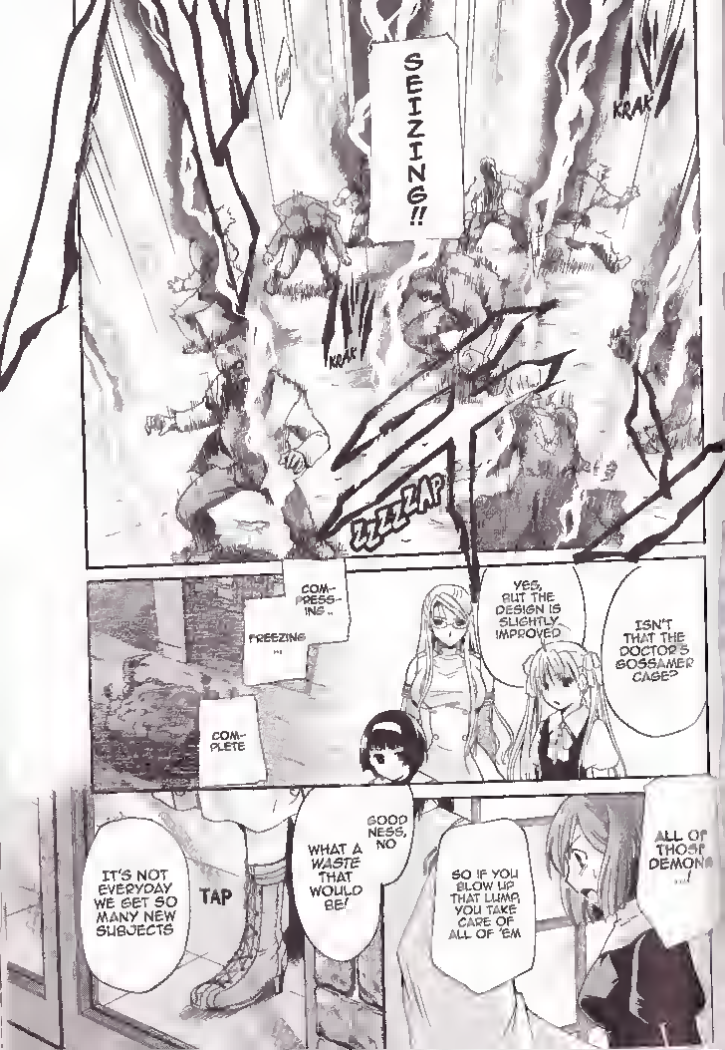


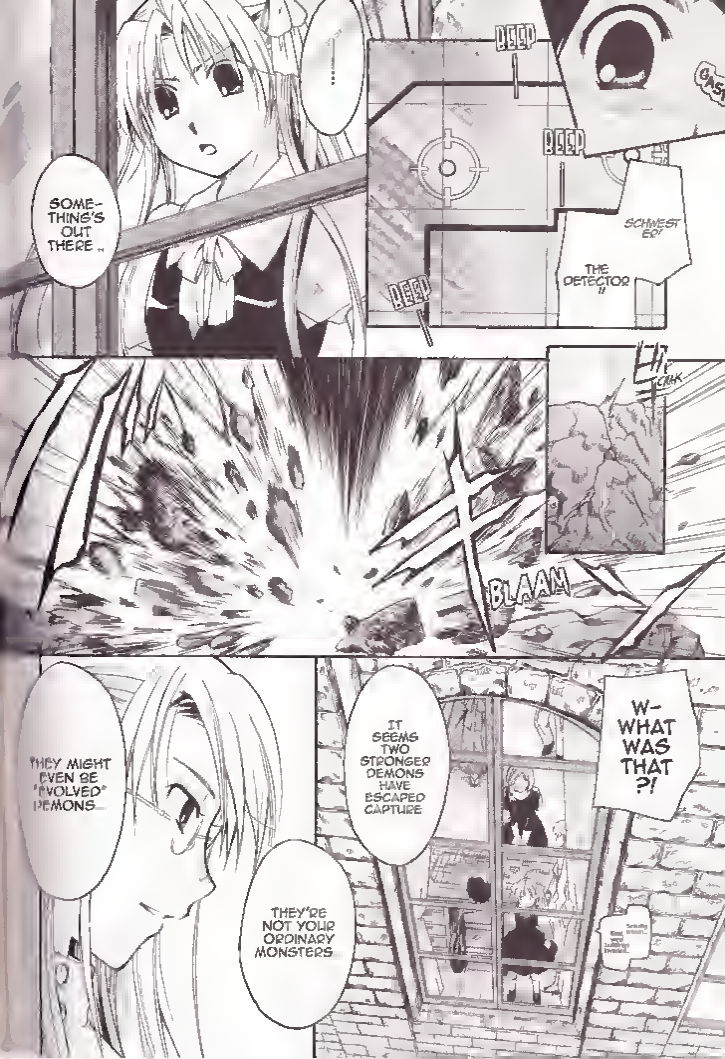
READY TO LEARN?
Crime-28 Evolved and Absolute
THE WAY TO DESTROY A DEMON ENTIRELY...

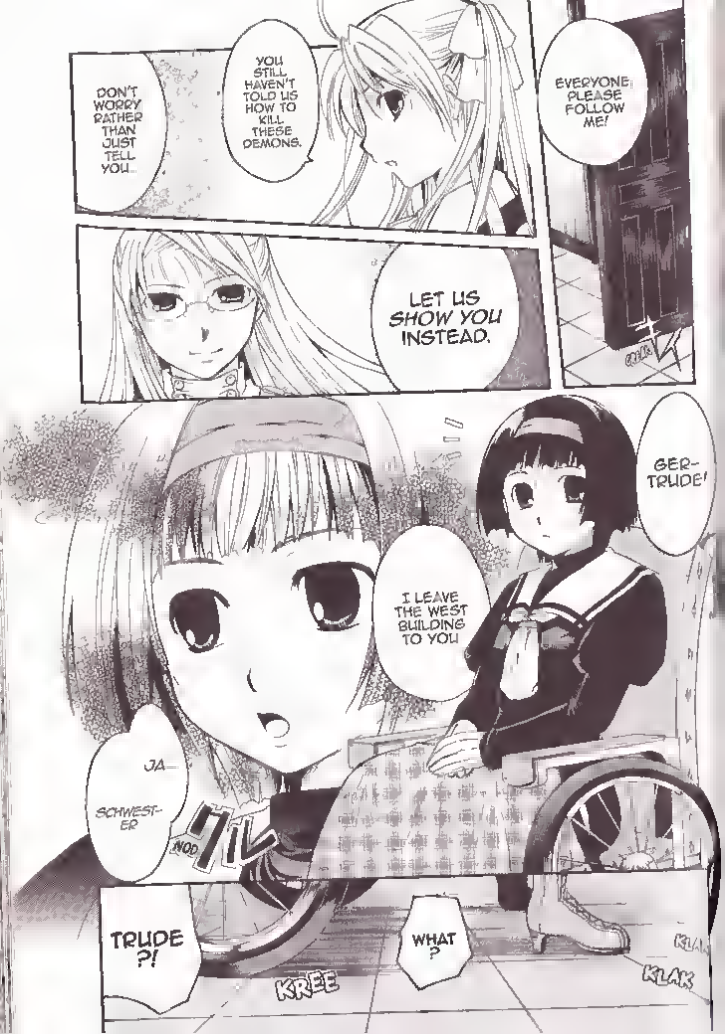
?!
FWUMP
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THE LIGHTS..?!
GER-TRUDE?
JA
TURNING ON EMER-GENCY LIGHTS
パチン
PA-CHIN
CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S GOING ON?
CLICK
CLICK
I'M HOOKING UP THE MONITOR--
WHAT ?!
CLICK
FUMU

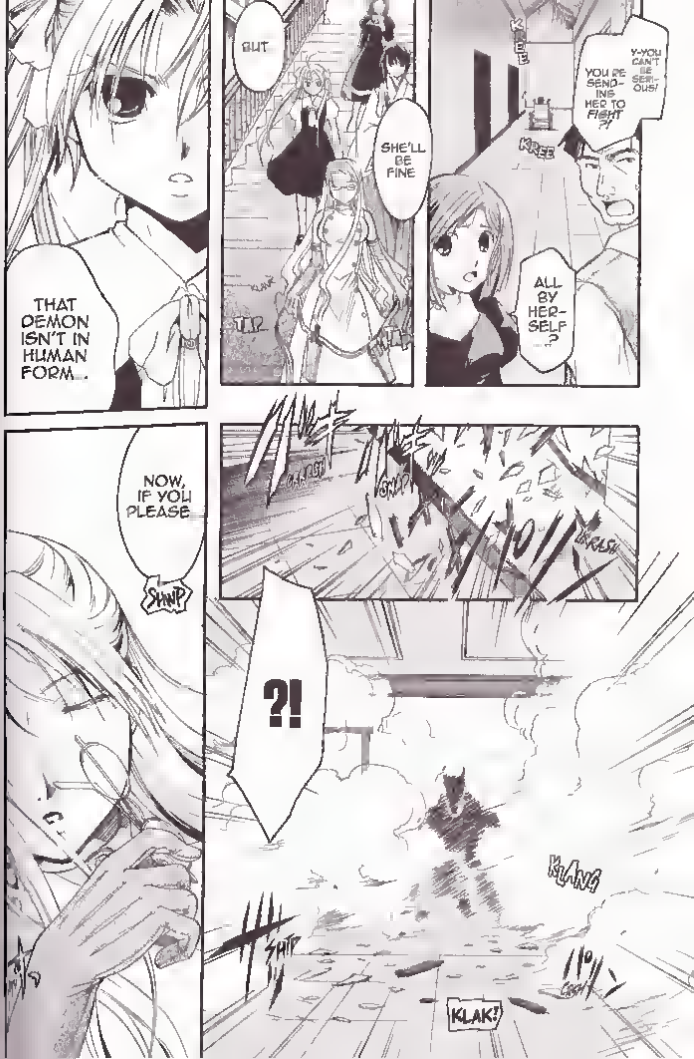
CRKLE
DEMONS!!
CRKLE
UNTIL NOW, WE HAD TO TRACK THEM DOWN TO DESTROY THEM
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE SOUGHT US.
WHAT'S CHANGED?
I DON'T KNOW THERE'S NO PRECEDENT SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO ANALYZE
BUT WHATEVER THEIR REASON IS, THEY SEEM PRETTY DETERMINED TO SEE US
WE'RE SUR-ROUND-ED!!
WE NEED TO GRAB OUR WEAPONS AND---

CLACK
CLACK
TOUCH
BUT THERE ARE SO MANY..
THEY WON'T GET PAST OUR SECURITY
THERE'S NO NEED
GER-TRUDE?
JA
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY THERE ARE..
THEY'RE NO MATCH FOR THE TWO OF US
SPECIMEN CAPTURE POINTS IDENTIFIED
HIRSCH ELF SECHZEHN EINUNDZWANZIG CONFIRMED
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
ETHER SENT TO ALCHEMICAL GLYPH!
ACTIVATE!!
FWOOSH

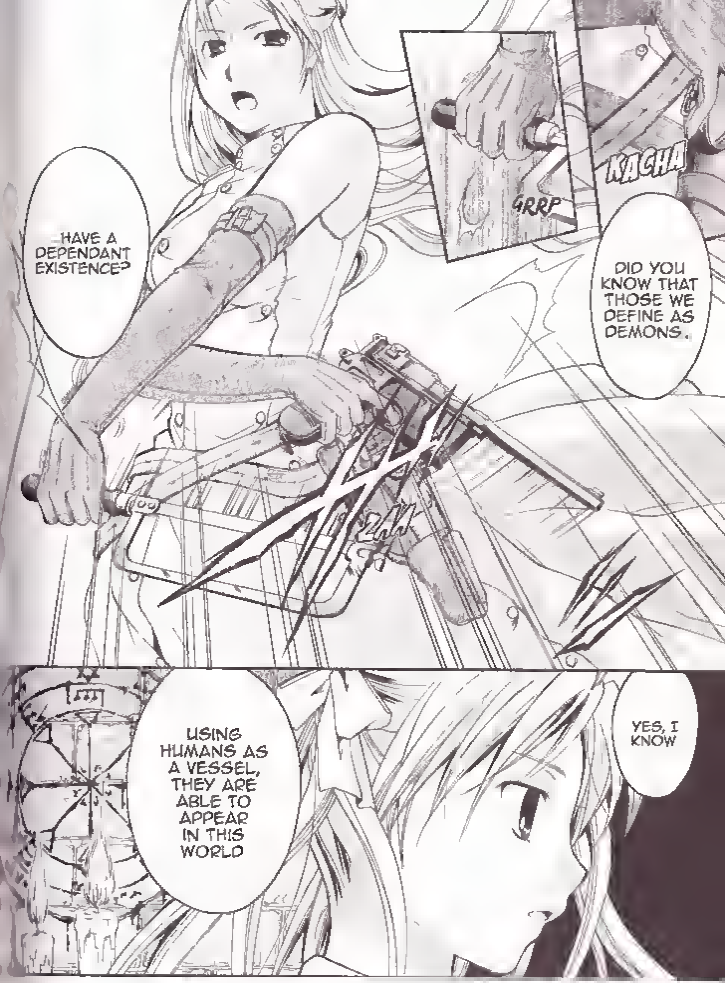

SEIZING!!
KRAK
KRAK
ZZZZAP
COM-PRESS-ING..
FREEZING...
COM-PLETE
YES, BUT THE DESIGN IS SLIGHTLY IMPROVED
ISN'T THAT THE DOCTOR'S GOSSAMER CASE?
ALL OF THOSE DEMONS!
SO IF YOU BLOW UP THAT LUMP, YOU TAKE CARE OF ALL OF 'EM
GOOD-NESS, NO
WHAT A WASTE THAT WOULD BE!
TAP
IT'S NOT EVERYDAY WE GET SO MANY NEW SUBJECTS

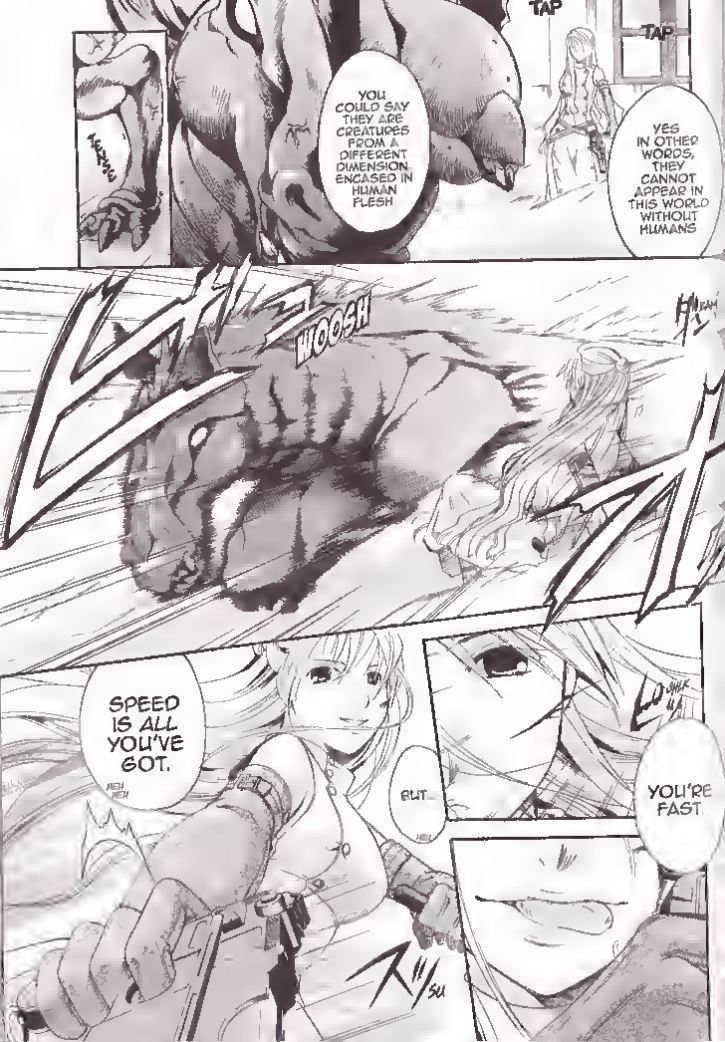

SOME-THING'S OUT THERE..
...
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
SCHWEST ER?
THE DETECTOR !!
CRACK
BLAAM
W-WHAT WAS THAT?!
IT SEEMS TWO STRONGER DEMONS HAVE ESCAPED CAPTURE
THEY'RE NOT YOUR ORDINARY MONSTERS...
THEY MIGHT EVEN BE "EVOLVED" DEMONS...

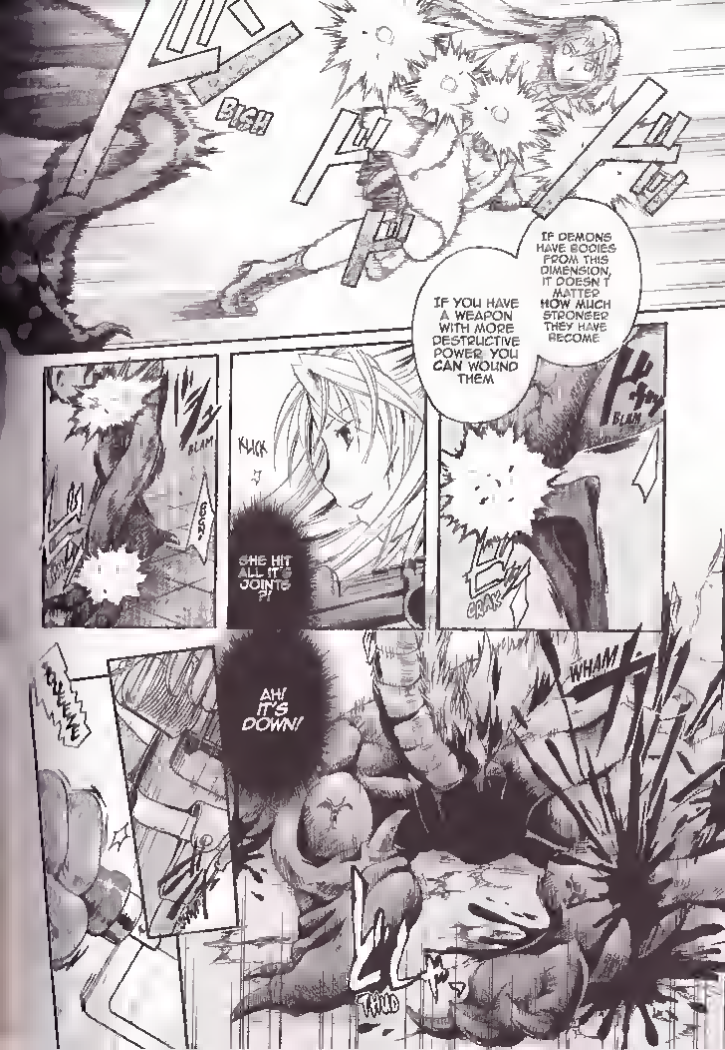

EVERYONE, PLEASE FOLLOW ME!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD US HOW TO KILL THESE DEMONS.
DON'T WORRY RATHER THAN JUST TELL YOU...
LET US SHOW YOU INSTEAD.
GER-TRUDE!
I LEAVE THE WEST BUILDING TO YOU.
JA— SCHWEST-ER
NOD
TRUDE ?!
WHAT ?
KREE
KLAK
KLAK

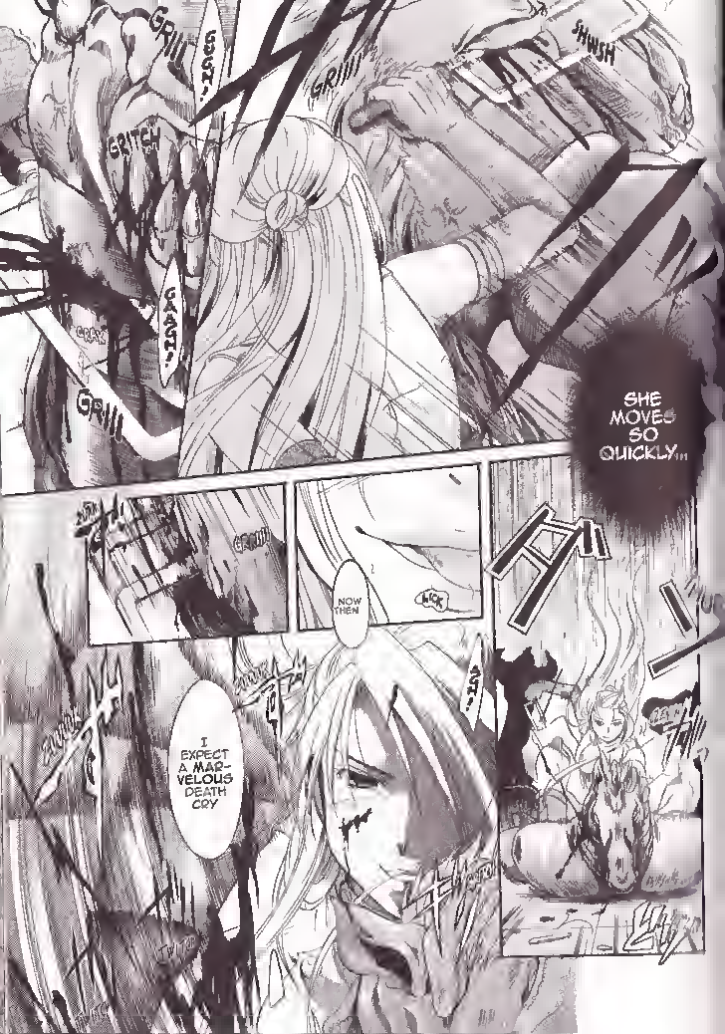

THAT DEMON ISN'T IN HUMAN FORM...
BUT
SHE'LL BE FINE
TIP
TIP
KREE
Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
YOU'RE SENDING HER TO FIGHT?!
KREE
ALL BY HERSELF...?
NOW, IF YOU PLEASE...
SHWIP
?!
KLANG
SHIP
KLAK!

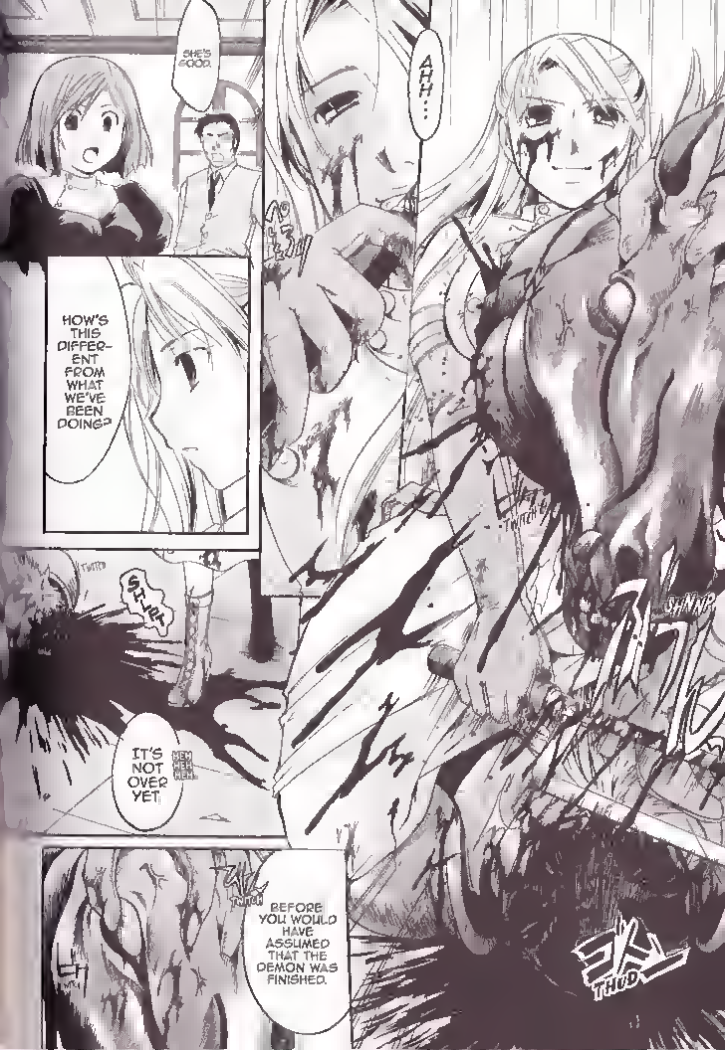
PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO.
SHWOO

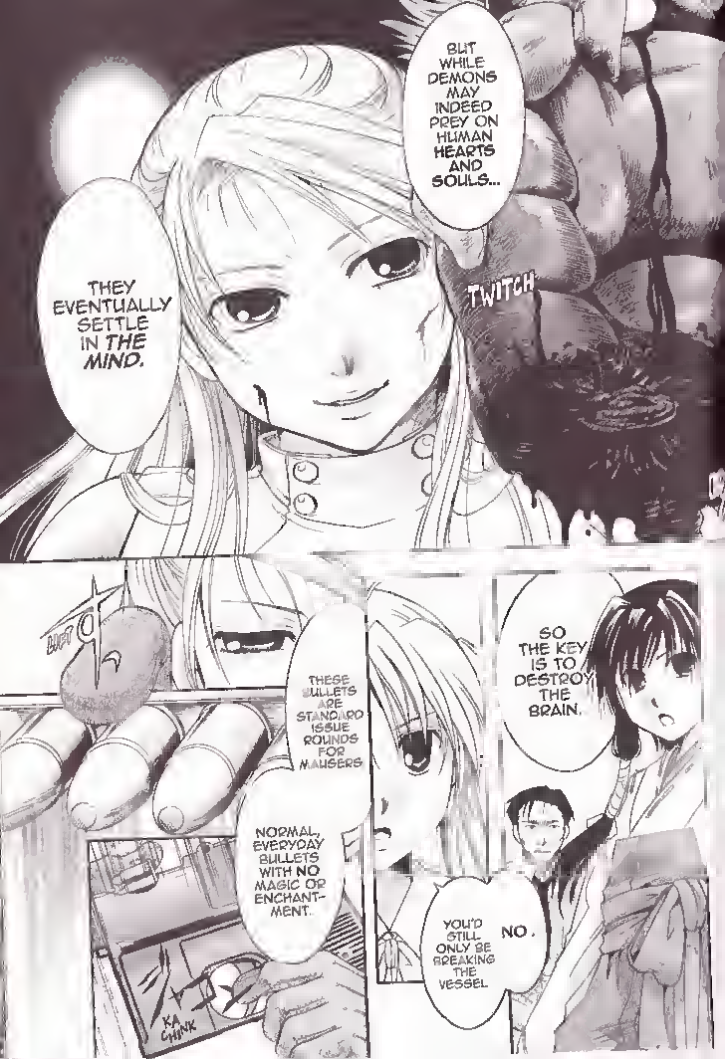

HAVE A DEPENDANT EXISTENCE?
DID YOU KNOW THAT THOSE WE DEFINE AS DEMONS.
GRRP
KACHA
USING HUMANS AS A VESSEL, THEY ARE ABLE TO APPEAR IN THIS WORLD
YES, I KNOW

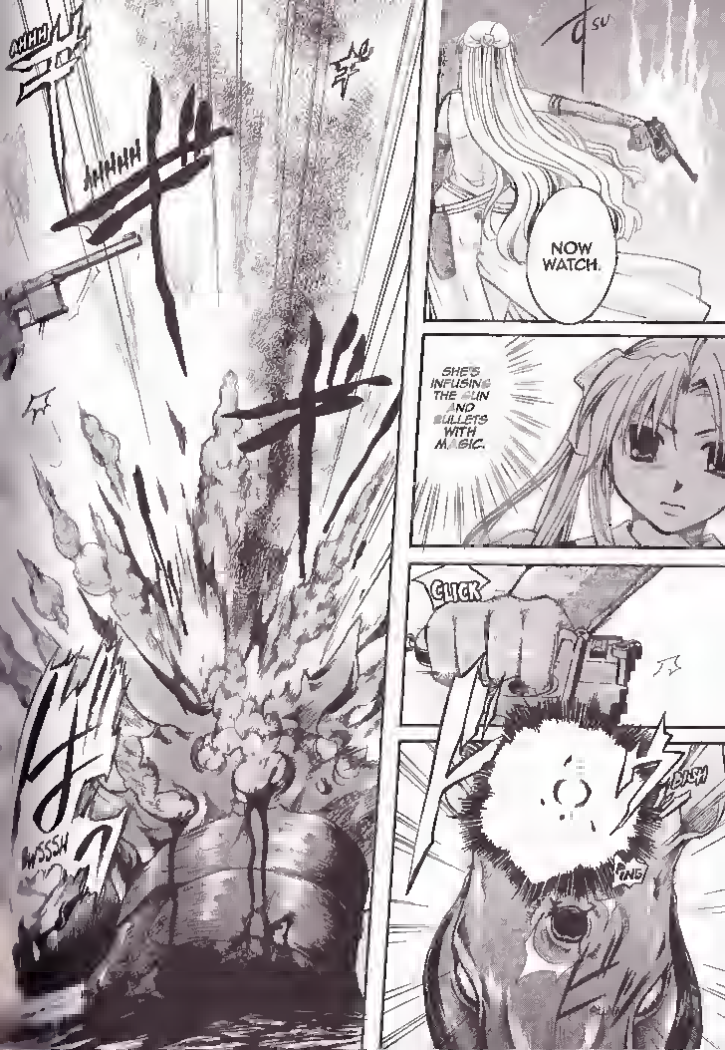

TAP
TAP
YES IN OTHER WORDS, THEY CANNOT APPEAR IN THIS WORLD WITHOUT HUMANS
YOU COULD SAY THEY ARE CREATURES FROM A DIFFERENT DIMENSION, ENCASED IN HUMAN FLESH
TENSE
HOOSH!
YOU'RE FAST.
BUT...
SPEED IS ALL YOU'VE GOT.
HEH HEH

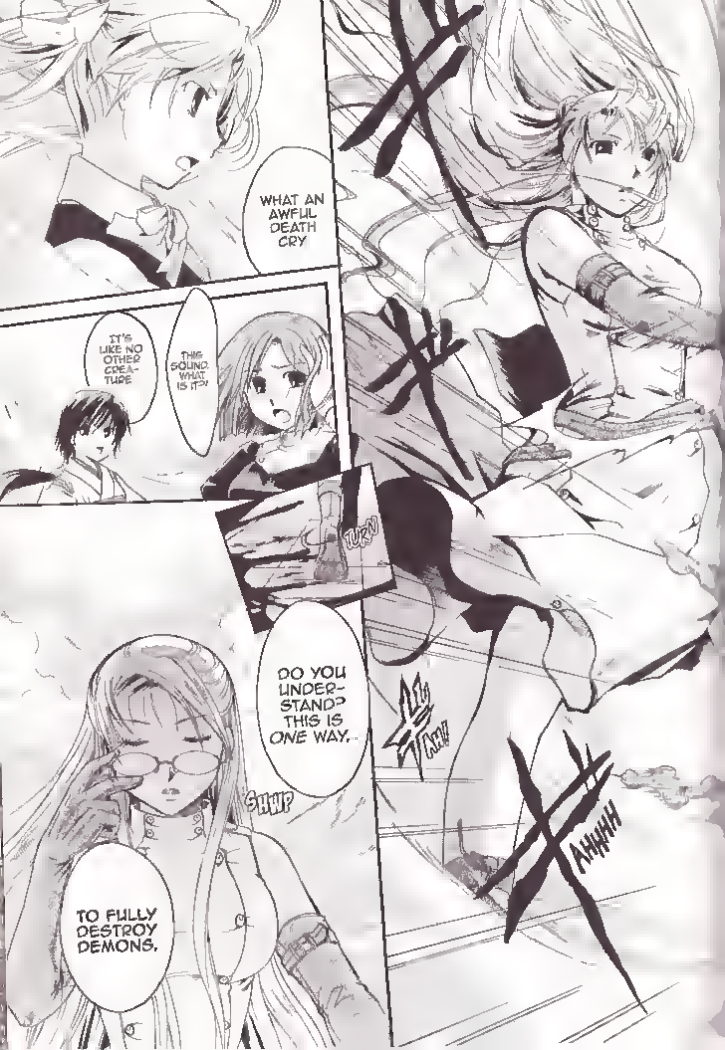

BLAH
IF DEMONS HAVE BODIES FROM THIS DIMENSION, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH STRONGER THEY HAVE BECOME
IF YOU HAVE A WEAPON WITH MORE DESTRUCTIVE POWER YOU CAN WOUND THEM
BLAM
KNACK
BSH
SHE HIT ALL IT'S JOINTS?!
CRAK
AH! IT'S DOWN!
WHAM
THUD

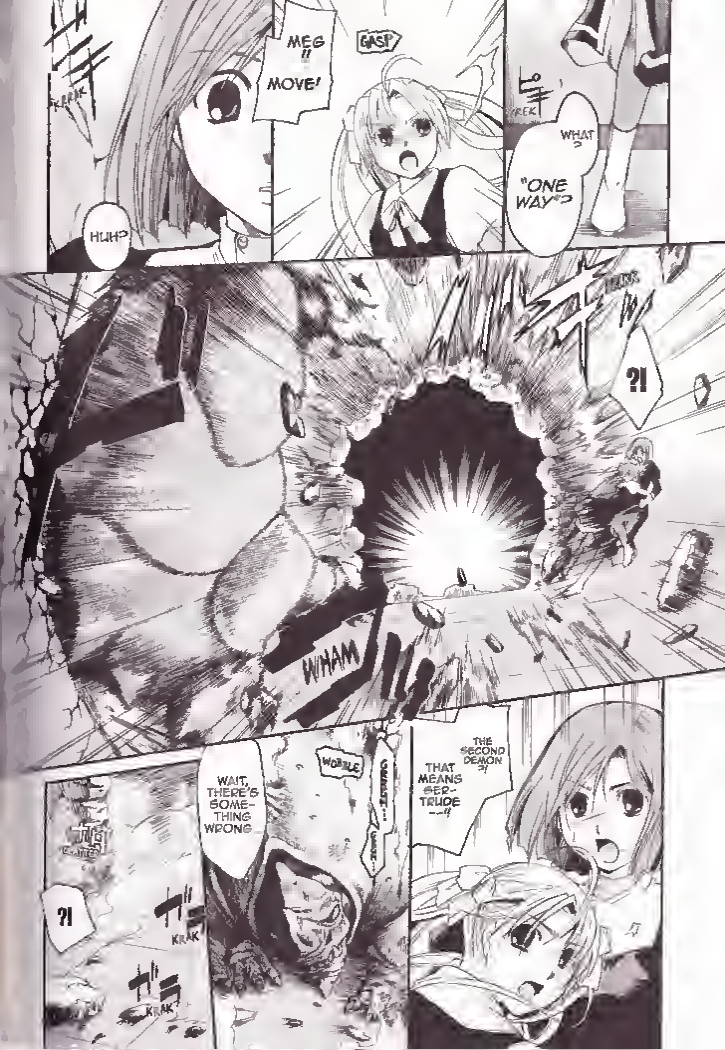

GRILL
GSH!
GRITCH
GRAZE
GRILL
GRIII
SHWISH
SHE MOVES SO QUICKLY...
NOW THEN
KICK
GRIII
I EXPECT A MARVELOUS DEATH CRY
GSH!


SHE'S GOOD.
AHH...
HOW'S THIS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING?
SHIVER
IT'S NOT OVER YET.
BEFORE YOU WOULD HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE DEMON WAS FINISHED.
SHIVER
THUD


BUT WHILE DEMONS MAY INDEED PREY ON HUMAN HEARTS AND SOULS...
TWITCH
THEY EVENTUALLY SETTLE IN THE MIND.
SO THE KEY IS TO DESTROY THE BRAIN.
NO.
YOU'D STILL ONLY BE BREAKING THE VESSEL.
BANG
THESE BULLETS ARE STANDARD ISSUE ROUNDS FOR MAUSERS.
NORMAL, EVERYDAY BULLETS WITH NO MAGIC OR ENCHANTMENT.
KA CHINK


AHHH
AHHHH
NOW WATCH.
SHE'S INFUSING THE GUN AND BULLETS WITH MAGIC.
CLICK
WHOOSH
PING
WHOOSH


WHAT AN AWFUL DEATH CRY
IT'S LIKE NO OTHER CREATURE
THIS SOUND. WHAT IS IT?!
TURN
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? THIS IS ONE WAY.
SHIP
TO FULLY DESTROY DEMONS.
AHHH

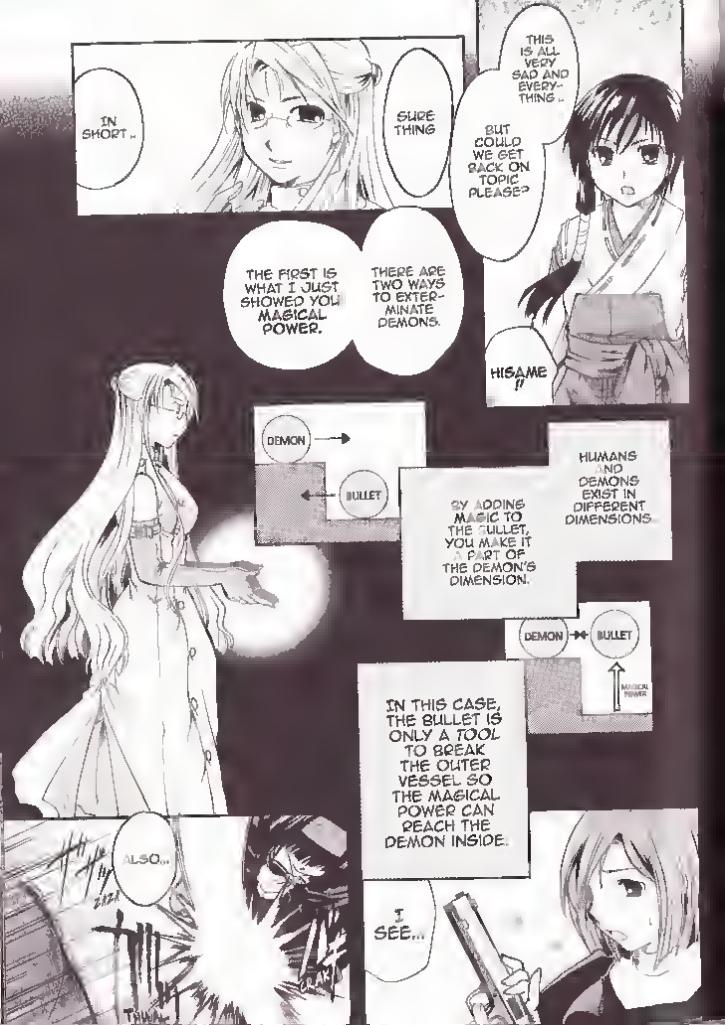

KRAK
MEG!! MOVE!
GASP!
HUH?
CREEK
WHAT?
"ONE WAY"?
?!
WHAM
THE SECOND DEMON?!
THAT MEANS SEPTRUDE--!!
WORRLE
GWARSH...
WAIT, THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG
?!
KRAK
KRAK

GERTRUDE?!
THAT WAS YOU?!
I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BREAK THE WALL
KRAK
DRIP
DRIP
KRAK
YES...
I THOUGHT SHE WAS DISABLED?
IT DIDN'T TURN OUT SO WELL.
OUR FATHER... MARIUS... HE TRIED TO TRANSPLANT THE ARMS AND LEGS OF A DEMON ONTO MY SISTER.
BUT SHE HAS STRENGTH NOT FOUND IN A NORMAL HUMAN.
ALL FOUR OF HER LIMBS HAVE PROSTHETICS ATTACHED
SISTER MEG...

THAT GIRL HARBORS DEMONIC POWERS IN HER HUMAN FLESH
LIKE YOU...
BWAM
BUT YOU AND THAT POWER COEXIST WITHOUT DOING ANY HARM TO YOUR BODY
BUT GERTRUDE LOST HER LIMBS
SO THAT'S WHY YOU SAID SHE WAS JEALOUS OF ME...
BAM
?!

GRAAAGH!
SCHWE-
STER
I'M
BRING-
ING THIS
TO AN
END
RELEASE
THE
LIMITER
GITTE
FWOSH
SWIP
BAM
SWIP
!!!
FOEILAS-
SUNG

WHAT?!
MAGUS DID THAT TO HIS OWN DAUGHTER?
SEPTPLIDE LIVES IN FEAR THAT SOMEDAY THE DEMON PART OF HER WILL RULE COMPLETELY
AS YOU CAN SEE THE DEMON FLESH ON HER BODY IS GRADUALLY EATING AWAY AT THE HUMAN TISSUE AND MUSCLE
EXCUSE ME

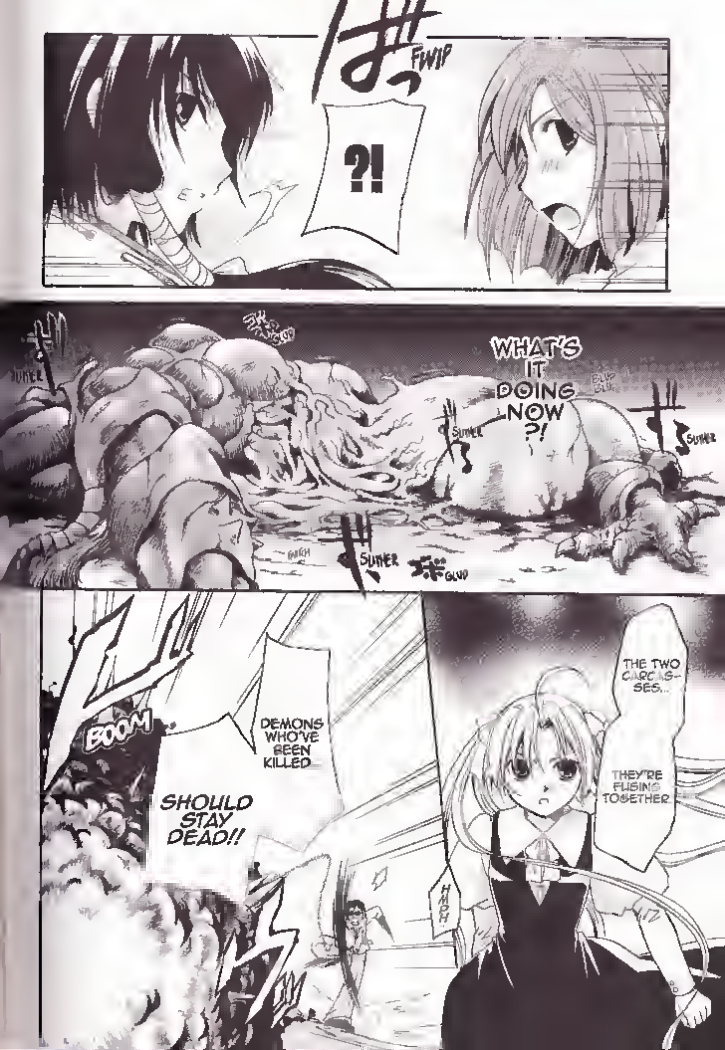

IN SHORT..
SURE THING
THIS IS ALL VERY SAD AND EVERY-THING..
BUT COULD WE GET BACK ON TOPIC PLEASE?
HISAME
THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO EXTER-MINATE DEMONS.
THE FIRST IS WHAT I JUST SHOWED YOU MAGICAL POWER.
DEMON
BULLET
BY ADDING MAGIC TO THE BULLET, YOU MAKE IT A PART OF THE DEMON'S DIMENSION.
HUMANS AND DEMONS EXIST IN DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS.
DEMON
BULLET
MAGICAL POWER
IN THIS CASE, THE BULLET IS ONLY A TOOL TO BREAK THE OUTER VESSEL SO THE MAGICAL POWER CAN REACH THE DEMON INSIDE.
I SEE...
ALSO...
CRACK
THUMP

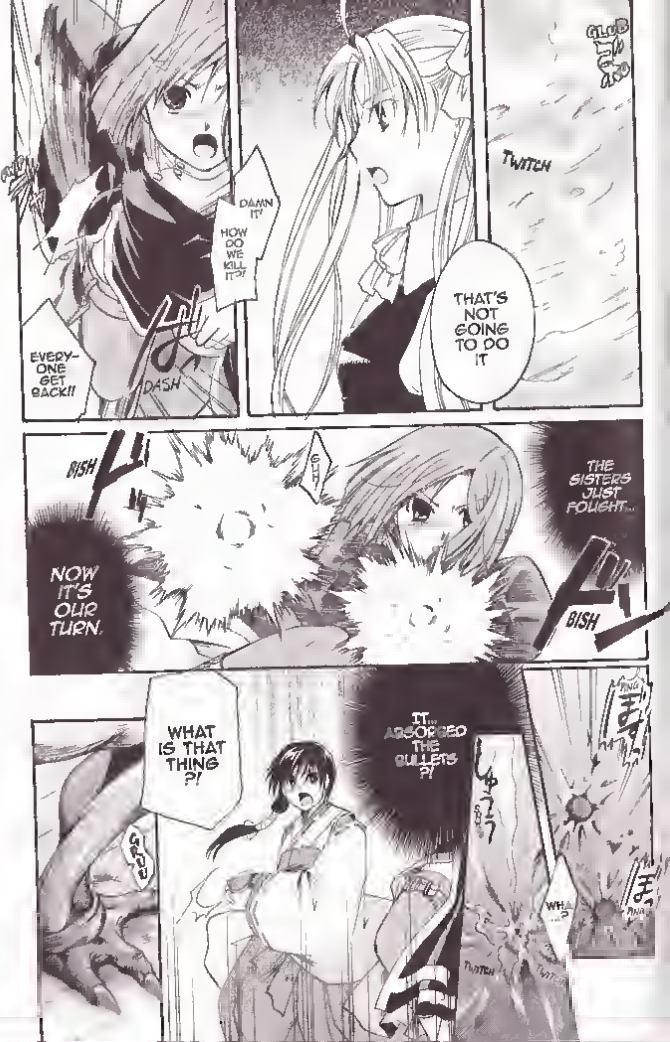
THE OTHER WAY IS TO USE "MALICE."
AN UTTER INTOLERANCE FOR THE DEMON'S EXISTENCE
...SHE DRAGS THE DEMONS DOWN FROM THEIR HIGHER DIMENSION TO OURS
BY HATING THE VERY EXISTENCE OF DEMONS...
MY SISTER IS... UNLIKE ME... A KIND GIRL.
GRIT
GRUNCH
GRUNCH
SNAP
GOUGH

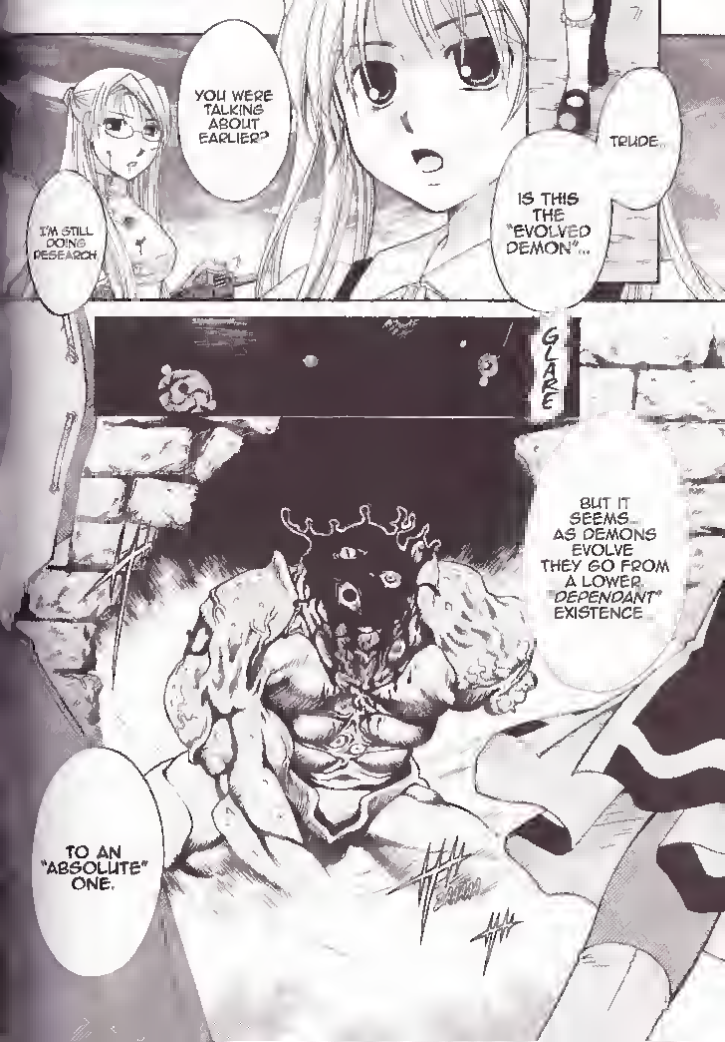
BLOSH
CHUNK
THE ONLY THING SHE HATES IS DEMONS
BRAKK!
SHE EVEN LOVED THE FATHER WHO CUT OFF HER ARMS AND LEGS
CLICK
CLICK
KRRCH
ARGH!
SHE DOESN'T HATE HIM AT ALL
GRIIIA
GRGAGH!

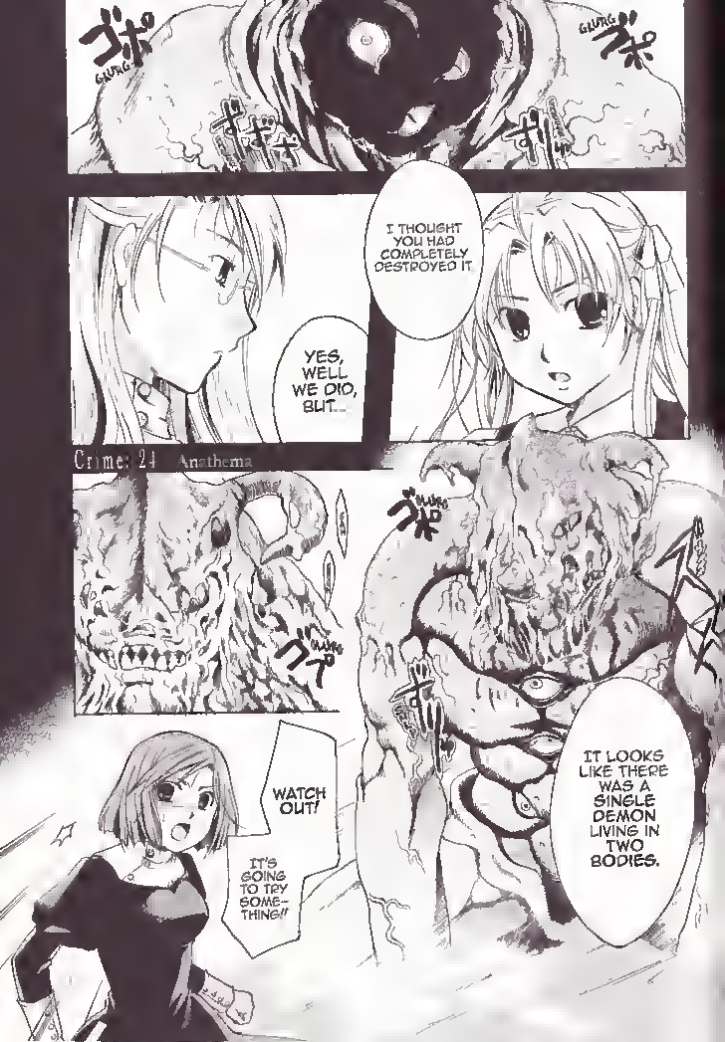
CRASH
SHLUMP
GER-TRUDE !!
DASH
CRIK
CRIK
CRIK
CRIK
SHLT
I SEE "MAGICAL POWER" OR "MALICE"
WE EITHER HAVE TO RAISE OUR ATTACKS TO THEIR LEVEL... OR BRING THEM DOWN TO OURS
SO
WOULD MY WEAPON AND MEG'S COUNT AS MAGICAL?
YEAH AND I DON'T HAVE MAGICAL POWERS...

AND BE-SIDES...
THAT THE PROBLEM IS WHETHER WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY USE THESE METHODS.
IT'S EASY TO SEE...
I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE CAPABLE OF SUCH PURE AND TOTAL MALICE
EVEN IF WE DO HAVE THE MAGICAL POWERS NECES-SARY
TWITCH
SHTP
SO MANY NEW DIS-COVERIES ALL IN ONE DAY.
HEE HEE.
OH...
BP
BLUSH
SCHWEST BE
DEEP
DEEP

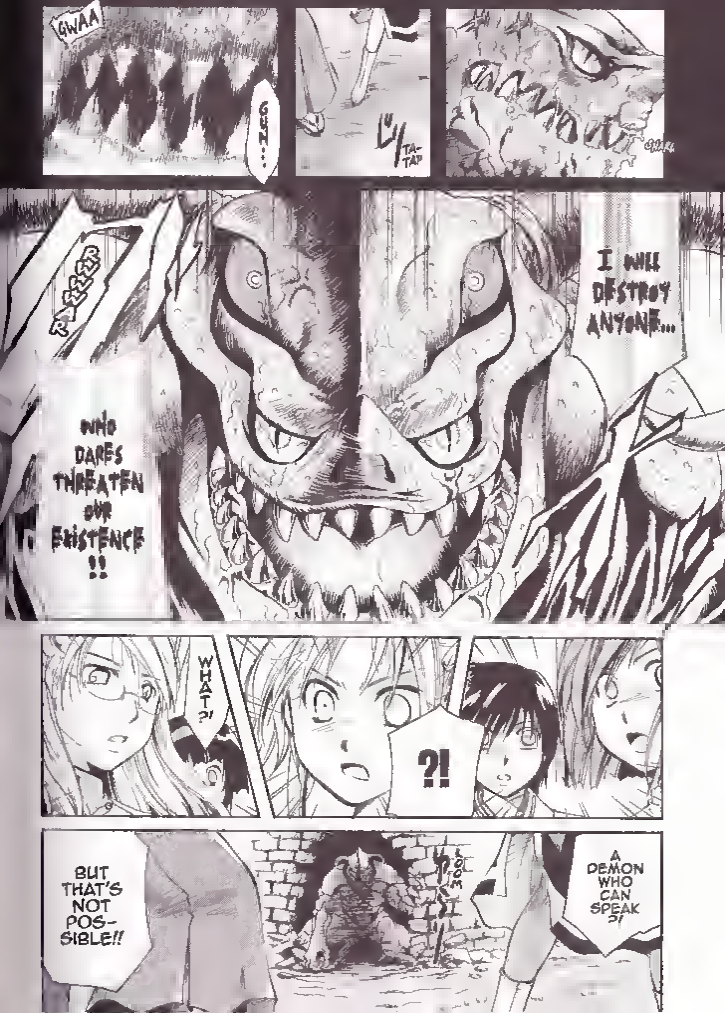

FWIP
?!
SUMER
WHAT'S IT DOING NOW ?!
SUMER
SUMER
SUMER
BOOM
DEMONS WHO'VE BEEN KILLED
SHOULD STAY DEAD!!
THE TWO CIRCUMSES...
THEY'RE FUSING TOGETHER
HAH!


GLUB GLUB
TWITCH
THAT'S NOT GOING TO DO IT
DAMN IT!
HOW DO WE KILL IT?!
EVERY-ONE GET BACK!!
DASH
BISH
GUH
THE SISTERS JUST FOUGHT...
NOW IT'S OUR TURN.
BISH
WHAT IS THAT THING?!
IT... ABSORBED THE BULLETS?!
GRRR
TWITCH
WHA...?


I'M STILL DOING RESEARCH
YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT EARLIER?
IS THIS THE "EVOLVED DEMON"...
TRUDE...
GLARE
BUT IT SEEMS AS DEMONS EVOLVE THEY GO FROM A LOWER "DEPENDANT" EXISTENCE
TO AN "ABSOLUTE" ONE.


ゴポ
GURG
ゴポ
GURG
I THOUGHT YOU HAD COMPLETELY DESTROYED IT.
YES, WELL WE DID, BUT...
Crime: 24 Anathema
ゴポ
GURG
ゴポ
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A SINGLE DEMON LIVING IN TWO BODIES.
WATCH OUT!
IT'S GOING TO TRY SOME-THING!!

Crime: 24 Anathema

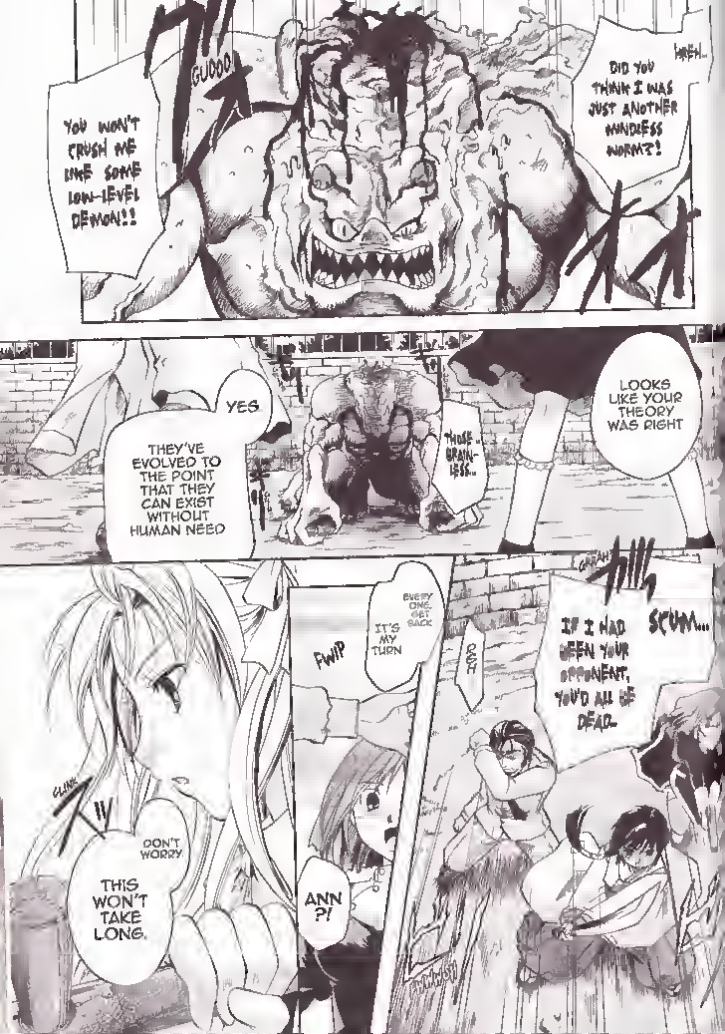


SO THIS IS AN EVOLVED DEMON
IDIOT!! IT'S NOT THE SAME!
IT'S NOT TALKING THROUGH A HOST. IT'S SPEAKING FOR ITSELF!!
SO WHAT? WE'VE RUN INTO OTHER DEMONS THAT COULD---
AN "ABSOLUTE" DEMON?!
HOWEVER...
YOU KNOW A LOT FOR HUMANS.
GRUH...
I'M NOT TELLING.
WOMAN IN WHITE!
HOW DO YOU KNOW OUR WEAKNESS?
THAT INFORMATION...
IS NOT FOR HUMANS!

HISAME
?!
KLANG
GRm.
RAGH!
AH!
BLAST IT! I CAN'T SEEM TO CUT HIM! BUT AT LEAST WE KNOW HOW TO BEAT IT!!
SO DON'T JUST STAND THERE LISTENING TO IT!
TAP

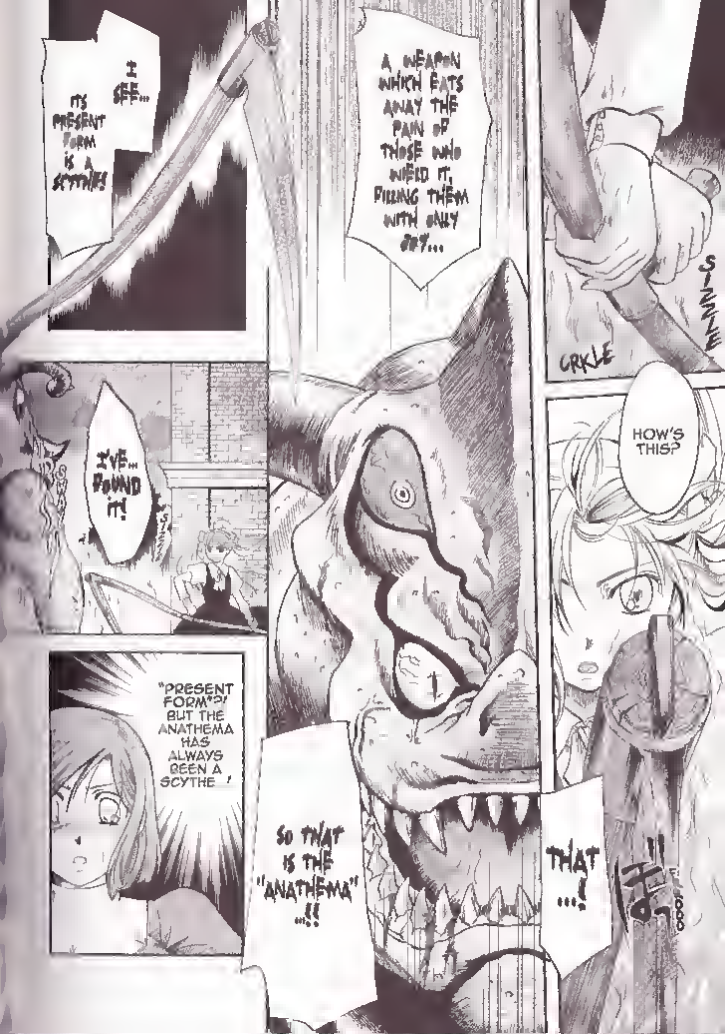
SLASH
GIVE ME SOME HELP HERE!!
TAP
GYAAAGH!!
IS IT DEAD?!
FWP
I GOT THIS ONE!
MOVE IT!
I...I DIDN'T HEAR ITS DEATH CRY...
?!

WHO GIVES A SHIT IF YOU CAN TALK!
SHPLT
SHPLT
SWISH
AHRRR!
WOBBLE
HOW'S THAT?!
ARGGLLITE, EVOLVED... YOU'RE ALL JUST DEMONS TO ME!!
I GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH MALICE //
BOOM
SHIT
FHOOSH
GURGLE
GURGLE
WHAT—?!
MESSY ATTACKS LIKE THAT WON'T CUT IT.


GUOOO
YOU WON'T CRUSH ME LIKE SOME LOW-LEVEL DEMON!!
HMPH...
DID YOU THINK I WAS JUST ANOTHER MINDLESS WORM?!
YES
THEY'VE EVOLVED TO THE POINT THAT THEY CAN EXIST WITHOUT HUMAN NEED
THOSE... BRAINLESS...
LOOKS LIKE YOUR THEORY WAS RIGHT
GRRAH!
SCUM...
IF I HAD BEEN YOUR OPPONENT, YOU'D ALL BE DEAD.
FWIP
EVERY ONE, GET BACK
IT'S MY TURN
SCH
CLINK
DON'T WORRY
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.
ANN?!

I NEED TO SEE...
HOW MUCH POWER I CAN DRAW OUT OF THIS SCYTHE AGAINST AN ACTUAL DEMON..
IT DIFFERS FROM LOWER DEMONS, WHOSE ACTIONS ARE BASED ON THE MEMORIES AND INSTINCTS OF THEIR HUMAN HOSTS.
GOT TO BE CAREFUL
SO.
HERE'S MY CHANCE!
HAH THERE!

Gwa haa haa...
BUT THE "ABSOLUTE" DEMONS HAVE THEIR OWN IDENTITIES...
AND ARE MORE POWERFUL FOR IT.
DAMN!
RELEASE!
OF COURSE...
THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO EASY.


I SEE...
IT'S PRESENT FORM IS A SCYTHE!
A WEAPON WHICH EATS AWAY THE PAIN OF THOSE WHO WIELD IT, FILLING THEM WITH ONLY JOY...
SINNE
CRKLE
HOW'S THIS?
I'VE... FOUND IT!
"PRESENT FORM"?! BUT THE ANATHEMA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SCYTHE!
SO THAT IS THE "ANATHEMA"...!!
THAT...!

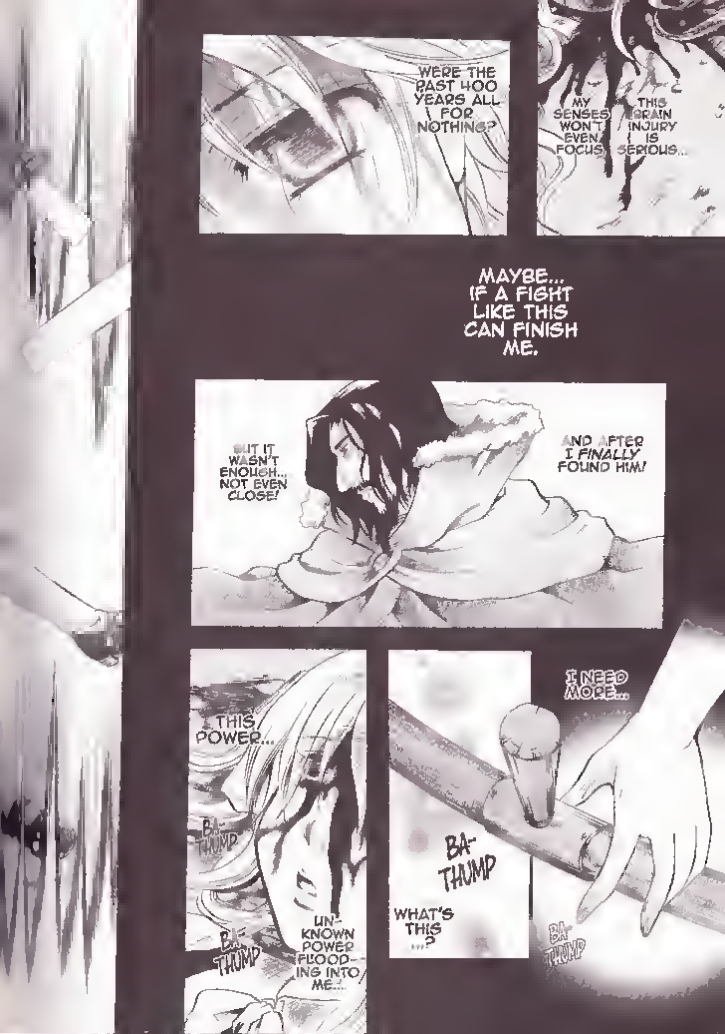
THAT SCYTHE!!
MY LIFE'S PURPOSE... IS TO OBTAIN THE "ANATHEMA."
GIVE IT TO ME!!
I REFUSE.
SLASH
TWITCH
TWITCH

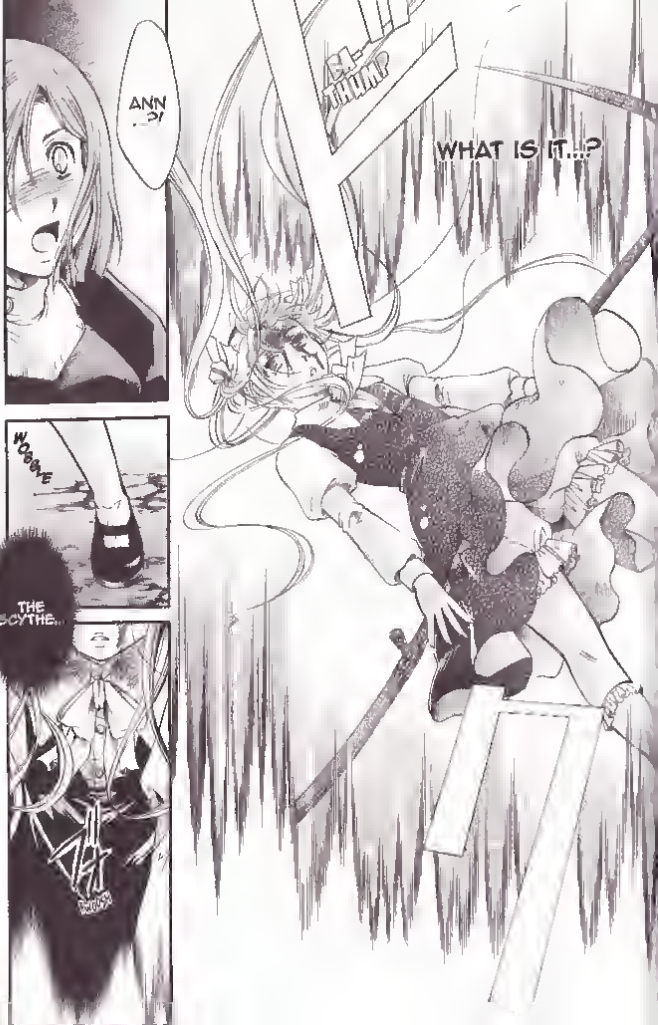
GRGH..
?!
GUARH!
THANKS TO THE SCYTHE...
THAT ARM WON'T REGENERATE.
GRGH ?!
WHAT ?!
IT RIPPED OFF THE BURNED FLESH AND CREATED A NEW WOUND?!
GUH
ZUZUZU
GUH
GUH
TO THINK THERE WOULD BE SUCH A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LOWER AND HIGHER DEMONS.
NOT BAD. IT'S ALREADY GROWING BACK.

HE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU...
TWITCH
BUT I...
HE WOULDN'T
BA-THUMP
HIM...
TO DESTROY US...
TAP
BA-THUMP
THAT YOU... EXIST...
SHIT!
WHOOSH
WON'T ALLOW IT!!!
AH
ANGELA!!

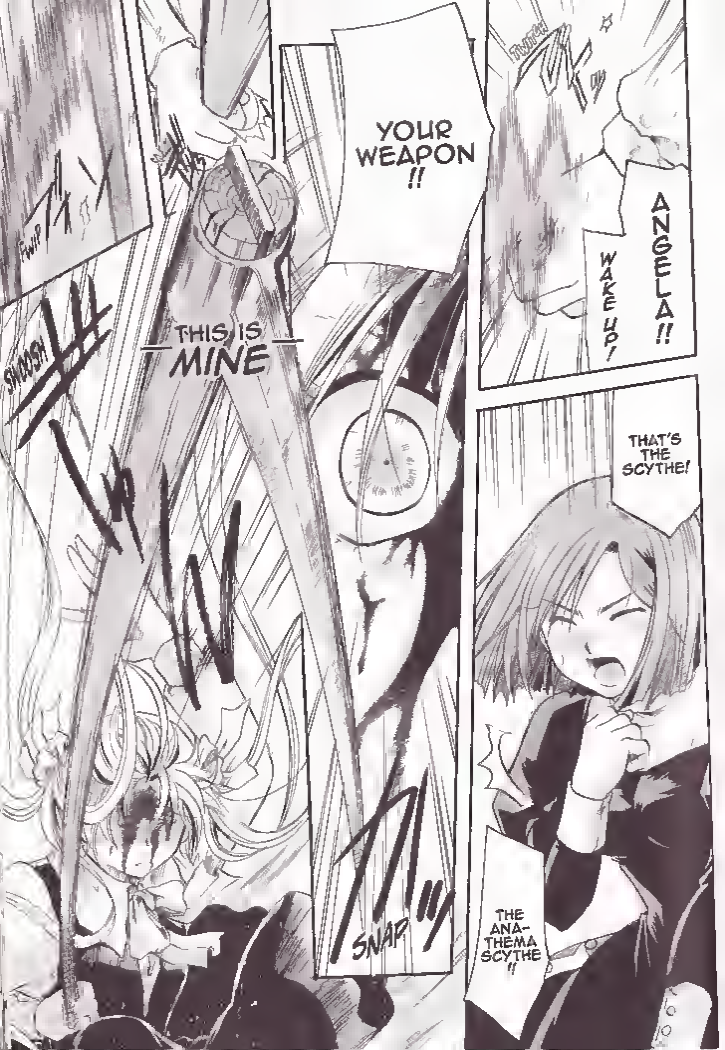
THWK
PAWN
SHLD

GAHAHA!!
THUD
ANN!!
ANGELA!!
SHE WILL REGENERATE THANKS TO MEG'S WISH FOR IT HOWEVER...
SUCH AMAZING SPEED...
ANGELA!!
WAKE UP!
SHE'S STILL UNCONSCIOUS.
BOOM
BY THUMP


WERE THE PAST 400 YEARS ALL FOR NOTHING?
MY SENSES WON'T EVEN FOCUS.
THIS BRAIN INJURY IS SERIOUS...
MAYBE... IF A FIGHT LIKE THIS CAN FINISH ME.
BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH... NOT EVEN CLOSE!
AND AFTER I FINALLY FOUND HIM!
THIS POWER...
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
UN-KNOWN POWER FLOOD-ING INTO ME...
BA-THUMP
WHAT'S THIS ...?
I NEED MORE...
BA-THUMP


ANN...?!
WHAT IS IT...!?
WOOSH
THE SCYTHE...

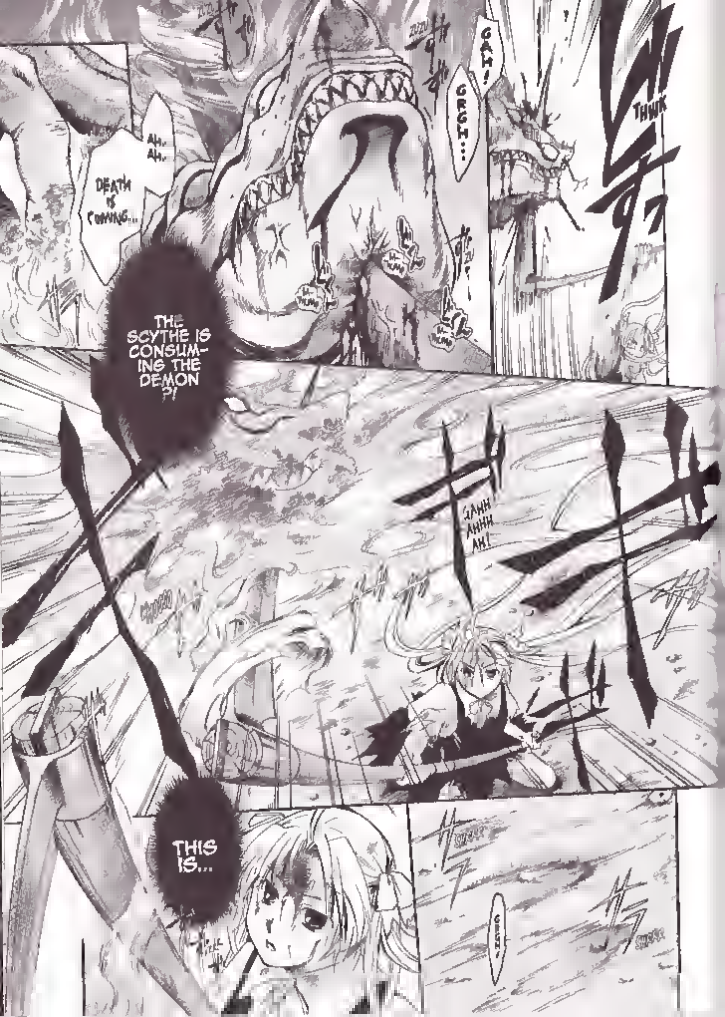
...IT'S LOST ITS MATERIAL FORM?!
WOOOSH
WHAT IS THIS IN MY HANDS?
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE...?
THAT POWER...
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?

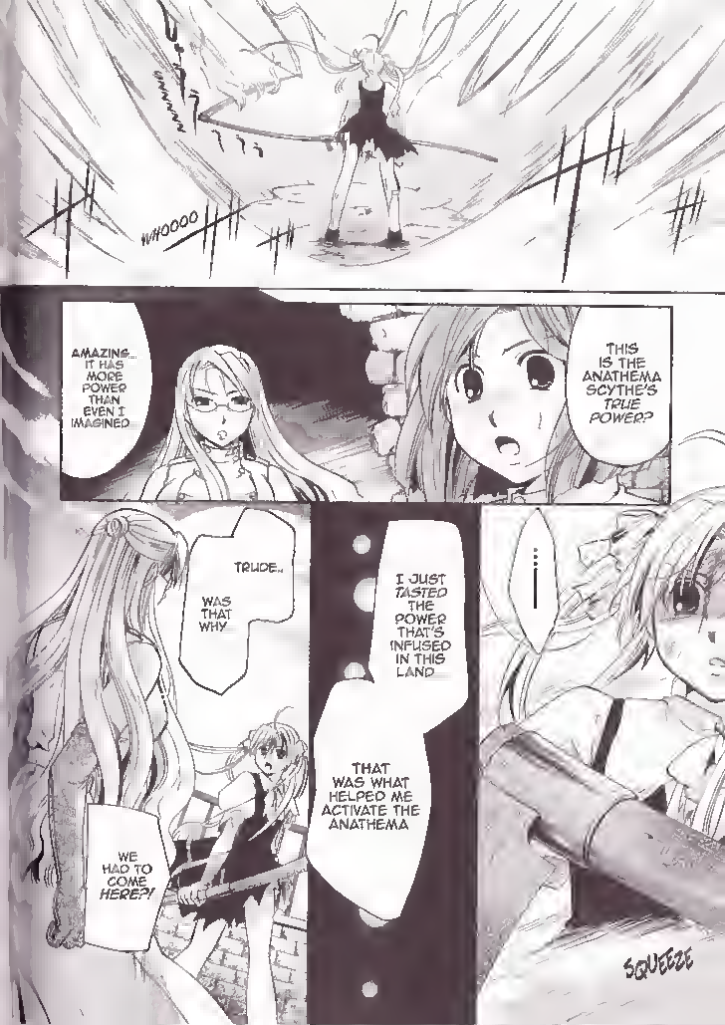

ANGELA!!
WAKE UP!
FWIP
YOUR WEAPON!!
THIS IS MINE
SWOOSH
SNAP
THAT'S THE SCYTHE!
THE ANA-THEMA SCYTHE!!

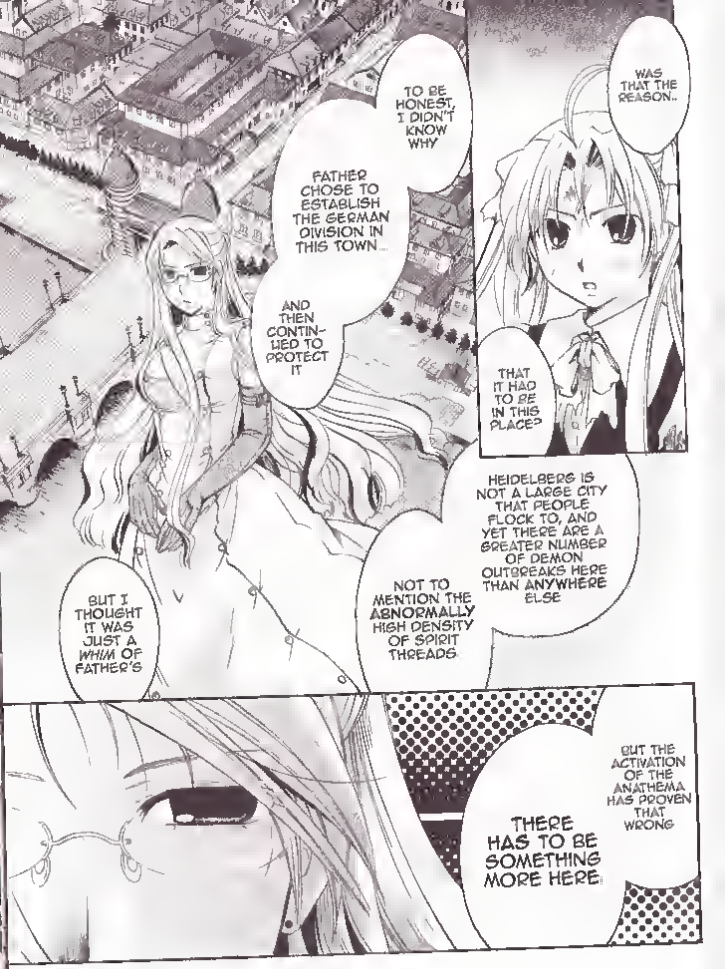
MY ANATHEMA——!!

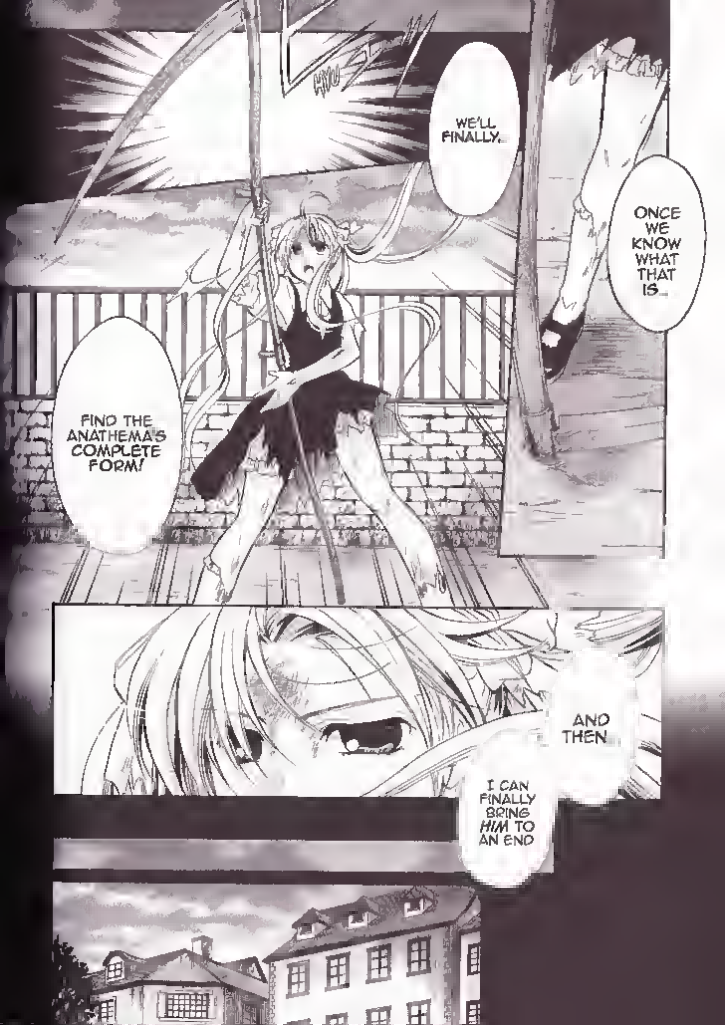
FROOOHH!
IT... CAN'T... BE...
SHWING
SUCH POWER...
CLENCH
NO...
FROHHH!

BLE
IT...
CAN'T BE...
SHAAAAAA
GTEACH!!
SHAAAAAA
BAM

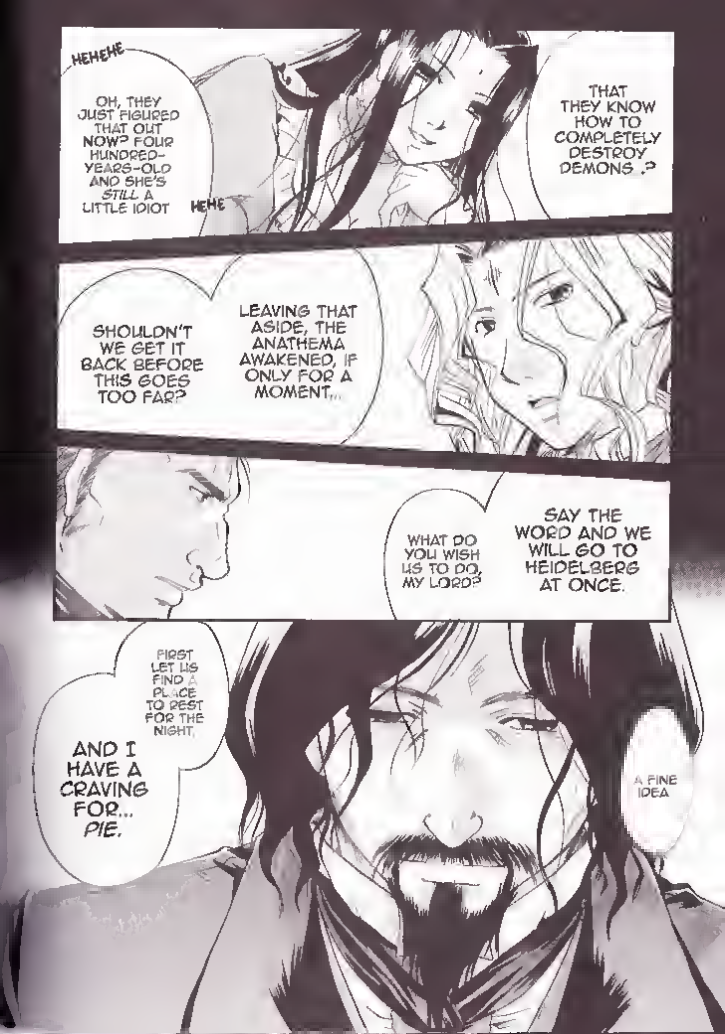

AH-
AH-
DEATH IS COMING...
GAH!
GESH...
THUNK
THE SCYTHE IS CONSUMING THE DEMON?!
GAHH AHHH AH!
THIS IS...
GESH!

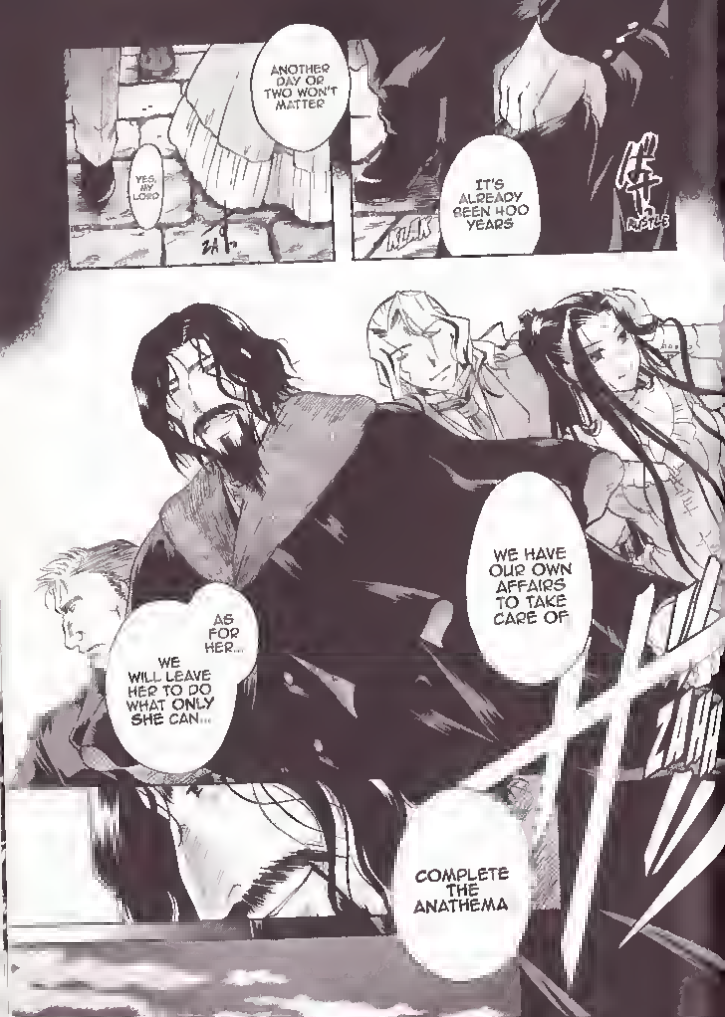

WHOOOO
AMAZING... IT HAS MORE POWER THAN EVEN I IMAGINED
THIS IS THE ANATHEMA SCYTHE'S TRUE POWER?
TRUDE...
WAS THAT WHY
I JUST TASTED THE POWER THAT'S INFUSED IN THIS LAND
THAT WAS WHAT HELPED ME ACTIVATE THE ANATHEMA
WE HAD TO COME HERE?
SQUEEZE


WAS THAT THE REASON...
THAT IT HAD TO BE IN THIS PLACE?
TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T KNOW WHY
FATHER CHOSE TO ESTABLISH THE GERMAN DIVISION IN THIS TOWN...
AND THEN CONTINUED TO PROTECT IT
HEIDELBERG IS NOT A LARGE CITY THAT PEOPLE FLOCK TO, AND YET THERE ARE A GREATER NUMBER OF DEMON OUTBREAKS HERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE
NOT TO MENTION THE ABNORMALLY HIGH DENSITY OF SPIRIT THREADS
BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A WHIM OF FATHER'S
BUT THE ACTIVATION OF THE ANATHEMA HAS PROVEN THAT WRONG
THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING MORE HERE.


WE'LL FINALLY...
ONCE WE KNOW WHAT THAT IS...
FIND THE ANATHEMA'S COMPLETE FORM!
AND THEN...
I CAN FINALLY BRING *HIM* TO AN END

I CAN'T BELIEVE NONE OF THE PASSENGERS SURVIVED!
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE TRAIN ACCIDENT?
IT'S FRIGHTENING.
I HEAR IT WAS A PRETTY GRIM SCENE.
AND THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT CAUSED IT?
HA HA HA!
YOU ARE A BAD MAN.
AFTER ALL, YOU KNEW IT WOULD BE BEATEN.
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, MY LORD?
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THOSE WHO CAN BARELY HANDLE AN ABSOLUTE DEMON WOULD DARE TO CHALLENGE US.
HEH.
IT SEEMS THEY HAVE BEATEN OUR ENVOY...
WHAT?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
CLINK


HEHEHE
OH, THEY JUST FIGURED THAT OUT NOW? FOUR HUNDRED-YEARS-OLD AND SHE'S STILL A LITTLE IDIOT
HEHE
THAT THEY KNOW HOW TO COMPLETELY DESTROY DEMONS.?
SHOULDN'T WE GET IT BACK BEFORE THIS GOES TOO FAR?
LEAVING THAT ASIDE, THE ANATHEMA AWAKENED, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT...
WHAT DO YOU WISH US TO DO, MY LORD?
SAY THE WORD AND WE WILL GO TO HEIDELBERG AT ONCE.
FIRST LET US FIND A PLACE TO REST FOR THE NIGHT.
AND I HAVE A CRAVING FOR... PIE.
A FINE IDEA


ANOTHER DAY OR TWO WON'T MATTER
YES, MY LORD
IT'S ALREADY BEEN 400 YEARS
WE HAVE OUR OWN AFFAIRS TO TAKE CARE OF
AS FOR HER...
WE WILL LEAVE HER TO DO WHAT ONLY SHE CAN...
COMPLETE THE ANATHEMA

MEG
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT GOING BACK TO LONDON ANY TIME SOON
BECAUSE IT'S TIME
TO UNCOVER THE SECRETS OF THIS PLACE!

TETRAGRAMMATON LABYRINTH

Volume 4

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